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From: "Lynne Eckardt" <midfarm@bestweb.net>
Date: Thu Apr 14, 2005 4:21 pm
Subject: SE Town Board Recap 4/7/05

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Hi All,

Below please find a much delayed recap of the Town Board Work Session of 4/7/05. There were some interesting agenda items including the Casino (huh?) and the wetlands permit for Terravest 3. As always the commentary is my own jaundiced view of life in Southeast. And, by the way, my opinions don't necessarily reflect the Board of CRSE. No official minutes were taken.

Work Session:

1. W. Johnston- Metro North:

Ms. Johnston gave a brief presentation of the Metro North improvements slated for around Town Hall. The Board asked questions about the sidewalk, mentioned the granite curbing and asked about parking spaces. Councilman Bonanno asked what the cost would be (there will be none to the town). In theory the Board liked the plans but wanted to see sample bricks. These would be provided.

2. 67 Main Street- Heating System

The boiler needs to be replaced. Hiring a consultant for a 'needs assessment' was discussed. Three estimates will be gotten.

3. Landfill:

Sterling Environmental will be hired to do testing.

4. Engineering Services- Blackberry Hill & Fox Hill Water Districts:

The town authorized an agreement with Chazen Engineering Bids were significantly higher than last year. Electrical portion needs to be 'bid out'. There will be a Public Hearing on the Bond. This item will be on the 4/14/05 agenda.

5. Bond Anticipation Note- Starr Ridge Water/Fox Hill Water:

See above.

6. Danbury Casino:

Supervisor Dunford met with the Mayor of Danbury. as Ct. Congresswoman Nancy Johnson has introduced a bill to repeal the Native American designation of the Schaghticoke Tribe. The possible location of the casino was discussed.

7. Copy Machine- Civic Center

8. Wetlands Permit- Vita- 300 Brewster Hill Road
 Board wanted to know if it was a 'family' subdivision.

9. Terravest 3, Wetlands Permit:

Terri Hahn gave an overview of the project. Permits have been given by the DEP and DEC. The project has gone from 9.19 acres of wetland buffer incursion (2003) to 5.96 acres now. All structures, except for an underground pump house, have been moved out of the buffer. The parking lot for new town recreational facilities will be partially in the buffer. Grass pavers or gravel was suggested for the lot surface. The entire Town Park will cause 2.5 acres of buffer disturbance. The applicant, Mr. Lepler, will retain the right to place additional sub-surface waste water fields under the town fields.

COMMENTS:

Metro North:

This Board so loves to decorate that this project was right up their alley. Speaking of which, the new judge's bench has arrived! A very snazzy mahogany number which just screams 'IMPORTANCE'. Unfortunately the chairs now pale in comparison. Honestly, they're 'blond' (the oak finish for the bench would have been so much more, I don't know, 'together'.) Maybe a chintz for the chairs would somehow mitigate.

Seriously, the new bench is very nice. My uncalled for sarcasm stems from the fact that the Board spent longer debating 'Oak V Mahogany' than they spend discussing, say, an over 5 acre buffer disturbance for a wetlands permit for Terravest.

By the way, the MTA project should really be a huge aesthetic plus for the village.

2. New Boiler:

I'm assuming here that the 'consultant' for the 'needs assessment' is in reality a oil-company-boiler-installation-guy, otherwise my head's gonna explode.

3. Landfill:

Maybe this will be capped in my lifetime but I'm not betting on it.

4. Blackberry Water and Fox Hill Water Districts:

After sitting through the three hour Peaceable Hill Water District 'Informational Meeting' the other night I can't bear tackling this one. I'm betting that this might be one or two of the three districts pricier than Peaceable Hill.

6. Danbury Casino:

Heavens- I thought this issue had died over a year ago...And then I panicked that I'd been scooped. But no, it's been totally off the radar for about a year. As I understand it new zoning restrictions and covenants are in place.

I have no idea if it was 'Smoke and Mirrors' time or if there's something I'm missing. But from everyone I've spoken to the Casino in Danbury is just not happening.

7. Copy Machine- Civic Center:

Just one question: Will this reduce the cost of FOILing?

8. Wetlands Permit, Vita Subdivision:

The Board seemed very concerned about whether or not this was a 'family' subdivision. Why? I have no idea.

9. Terravest 3:

Gosh, where to begin... Well, the maps were really, really pretty. Lots of green (no blue- wouldn't want to indicate where the wetlands and their buffers really are).

Yeah, I know I'm a broken record but do we really need our town facilities in the wetland buffer? Shouldn't the town be leading by example? And further how can we ever legitimately deny an applicant a wetland permit when the town rides roughshod over their own codes?

And I suppose it's just fine to allow the developer future rights to tear up existing ball fields but imagine the inconvenience and the outcry when this is done.

I, for one, would like to know how much Mr. Lepler is actually giving the Town. Land? Recreation fees? Rough grading? Remember, he retains the right to use this land in the future while it conveniently comes off the tax rolls. Doesn't seem like such a bargain- but maybe it's just me.

As always please feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments that you may have.

With Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt



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