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SE Town Board Work Session 7/13/06

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Hi All,

Mon Jul 17, 2006 3:10 pm

This past Thursday night I attended a Town Board Work Session.

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This one was a veritable love fest. Very convivial-everyone was in a great mood and as there were only four audience members a good time was had by all. Well, maybe not by all. Town Counsel Willis Stephens arrived late and did his usual, albeit more pronounced in this case, 'back-turn' on the audience. As the only two left were Cathy Croft and myself, I wasn't surprised, only amused by this oh-so-obvious diss. Ouch!

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The other 'fun' parts were (cue bad organ music) a new and mysterious twist on conservation easements and tales of a creepy phone call made to Councilman Bonanno. In an 'Alert the Media' moment there was some chit chat about possibly denying a wetlands permit that the Conservation Commission recommended be issued.

Dick Honeck ran away with the most amusing comment of the evening. Who knew defibrillators could be such fun!

And as always the comments made are my own caustic and jaundiced take on life in Southeast. They reflect no one's views but my own.

AGENDA:

1. Computer Program- Building Department:

This will allow the building Department to keep electronic records. It will aid in sharing these records with the Zoning and fire departments. The cost is under \$4000.

2. Reduction of Performance Bond- Arborscape:

This will be on next weeks agenda setting a Public Hearing for August.

3. Road Name Changes- Fields Corner Road:

Will be changed to Hartweed Lane. Mr. Hartweed was a former Town of Southeast Supervisor.

4. Dingle Ridge Road- Stream Restoration:

Supervisor Dunford commented the Conservation Commission loved this project. Will be on next weeks agenda.

5. Triple J Development Corp- Conservation Easement: Welfare Road

Board members weren't sure what this was about. All agreed that the paperwork was too vague and needed legal descriptions (metes and bounds) added. There will be two conservation easements. One is 0.130 and the other is 0.610. Both about Welfare Road.

6. JP International- Wetlands Permit:

This is a 35 acre three lot subdivision on Old Milltown Road. Harry Nichols was representing the applicant and explained the impact on the wetlands. Councilman Johnson asked if school buses went down Old Milltown. This will be on the July 20th agenda.

7. Defibrillators:

Two will be purchased. During the summer one will be kept at Wells Park and the other at Tonetta Beach. Due to safety issues Councilman Johnson was concerned where they would be stored.

8. Wetlands Local Law:

This is the local law that will replace the Conservation Commission with a wetlands inspector. The inspector will be established as a separate authority (structured as a consultant) and will convey information to the Planning Board. Councilwoman Mitts asked that the new Wetlands Consultant report to the Town Board.

Other Business:

The Board discussed the Ross Allen property (lot 49) at Salmon's Daily Brook Farm. The house, the driveway and the septic are all within the controlled area so there was concern over granting this permit which would obviously set precedent. Councilwoman Mitts was concerned as 'where do you draw the line?'

Councilman Bonanno then mentioned that he had been contacted at home on his unlisted number by Paul DiNardo of AWS. Mr. Bonanno felt that this could be construed as a form of intimidation. He returned the call but has not heard back from Mr. DiNardo. Mrs. Mitts said she gets calls at home and doesn't feel they're intimidating to which Mr. Bonanno replied, 'But are they from convicted felons?' Supervisor Dunford said that perhaps his assistant had given out the unlisted number by mistake. Mr. Bonanno did not feel that this was the case.

COMMENTS:**Fields Corner Road- name change**

Using historic names is great- unfortunately it won't change the fact that there are 143 homes approved for this area. You just can't drink this one pretty.

Triple J Development Corporation:

I have no idea what this was about- and as the applicant hadn't sent a representative no one else did either. And forgive me for being just a tad suspicious but, after all, this is the property where the barn was torn down.

The smaller easement is very peculiar, sitting on just a small corner of one property next to Elizabeth Court. And what I really

want to know is why a year after approvals someone came up with this bright idea- and shouldn't be back in front of Planning? I understand, that according to the plat, these areas are deed restricted- why? Again, I've no idea.

I also can't wait to find out who's gonna hold these easements. Hopefully all will be revealed soon.

Defibrillators:

Now I know there's nothing amusing about a heart attack but really this portion of the meeting was pretty funny. Councilman Johnson seemed almost frenetic about the storage of the defibs. Supervisor Dunford tried to talk him down by explaining that the machines would not be left lying around the town beach. But still Mr. Johnson persisted about proper storage. Finally, in a burst of comic genius Councilman Honeck said, "Hey kids, do you want to play tether ball or do you want to play **CLEAR!**"

I was amused.

Wetlands Law:

I am really hopeful that the town will hire someone really qualified (and please not the guy who did 'studies' when there was 6 inches of snow on the ground). I wouldn't mind a small oversight commission as a safeguard but since the old Conservation Commission recommended denial only a few times in the last five years how much worse could this get? I will say that there are several good members on the CC and although I didn't always agree these several worked hard and took their job seriously.

Salmon's Dailey Brook Farm:

Major kudos to Councilwoman Mitts for understanding that a really dangerous precedent could be set here. 100% of a project in a controlled area makes me crazy. And I believe that it was this lot that had a wetlands violation issued several years ago. Yeah, I understand that this was an approved building lot, but honestly, it's owned by a developer and most developers understand that once permits expire all bets are off.

More Garbage:

Sure, I find it creepy and inappropriate that Mr. DiNardo called Councilman Bonanno at home- and no, Lorraine, taking calls from constituents (scary as we may be) is not the same as the guy, recently indicted for racketeering and mail fraud, giving you a jingle.

Even I've gotten some 'fun' calls over the years- most recently the entire version of the ghastly Partridge Family singing 'C'mon get happy'. Come to think of it this may be even creepier than a call from DiNardo.

That's it from my desk.. before the heat makes me even more irritable.

With Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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