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SE Town Board Work Session 8/7/06

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Hi All,

Sat Sep 9, 2006 5:11 pm

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As usual I attended the Southeast Town Board Work Session on Thursday night. And work it was...Arguing over the use of the word 'may' or 'shall' for around 30 minutes is just not my idea of a good time. But zoning is certainly important so I suppose it comes with the territory. And, in what can only be described as Supervisor Dunford's 'Caribbean color attack', made the meeting almost worth the price of admission. I said 'almost'.

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Sadly, the most interesting thing about the evening was having three of the always charming Mr. Camarda's entourage take up air space. Three??????? You know, it's almost become like those bad jokes, in this case: "How many Camarda flunkies does it take to..." Because aside from them (nice gentleman all, by the way) it was a sparsely attended affair with just Ms. Croft and me in the cheap seats.

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Even Councilmen Honeck and Johnson seemed bored and resorted to a chat fest during the 'shall' vs. 'may' debate. Ever the shrewd one Councilman Bonanno had the good sense to avoid this meeting altogether.

As is already evident, the catty and uncalled for comments are strictly my take on the typically twisted tale of Southeast. And as always, my views reflect no one's opinions but my own.

AGENDA

1) PC Drug and Alcohol Task Force:

Mr. Joe DiMarso (sp?) spoke re. Youth Services of Putnam County. Mr. Dimarso gave statistics on underage drinking in Putnam County and touted the recently enacted Patterson Town Law. This law was enacted in reaction to a deck collapse in Patterson where it's alleged that a parent charged \$5 a head and allowed underage drinking in her home. Penalties would be more severe for any adult whose home is used to serve alcohol to those under the age of 21. If an adult is home ignorance can not be used as a defense.

2) Petition- Blackberry Hill Residents- Speed Bump:

Although Highway Superintendent Lawler generally does not favor speed 'humps' he does favor them for the west side of Blackberry. A petition was turned in so the 'humps' will be on the September 14th agenda.

3) AKRF Zoning:

Changes suggested:

Large Retail Establishments were discussed. Shopping centers with a gross square footage of 50,000 square feet will constitute a 'Large Retail Establishment'.

Supervisor Dunford felt that design guidelines should apply throughout Southeast.

The color pictures on a colonial theme submitted by Town Planner Trelsted were considered too colorful which might lead to misconceptions on the part of applicants. Mr. Dunford suggested that the photos be submitted in black and white.

An aerial photo will be required with new subdivisions. Discussion then centered around 3-D imaging and whether or not it should be required. Supervisor Dunford felt the image necessary as there's only 'lousy land' left in Southeast to develop. It was decided that since the Planning Board may waive this requirement should the applicant seek relief that the word 'shall' will be used. Councilman Johnson felt that because of technology prices dropping this would not be too onerous a requirement.

A 100 foot buffer between commercial and residential properties was discussed. Supervisor Dunford felt that this was not a large enough buffer. Town Planner, Trelsted felt it sufficient. It was left that the Town Board would be able to require the applicant to add additional buffer if needed.

I left at 9:00- and the meeting continued for an additional 15 minutes.

COMMENTS:

Alcohol Task Force:

The drug stats that Mr. DiMarso laid out were really interesting. Out of 1100 kids surveyed (in Southeast) 72% expect to experiment with alcohol. 44% have 5 drinks in a two week period. 50% get alcohol from their own homes. Mr. Dimarso pointed out that it is perfectly legal to serve your own children liquor.

He continued that cocaine is on the up swing while snorting Aspartame is 'in'.

Zoning:

I'm still unclear as to why the square footage has been upped to 50,000 square feet but as a cynical friend of mine recently remarked, obviously the always debonair Mr. Lepler must have some plan in mind which needs the full 50. Hmmmm, do I see a 'Borders' in Leplerville's future?

I found myself in agreement about design guidelines being used throughout the town so I love the fact that at this point we can't even see pictures of these 'colonial themed' buildings- it all just sounds so 'Disney world' to me. The hissy fit over bright Caribbean colors really livened up an otherwise dull meeting, also Supervisor Dunford's admission to being a 'control freak' Gee, ya think? What I want to know is why this kind of energy can't be harnessed into capping the dump, building ball fields, renovating the old Town Hall- you know, doing something slightly

more productive than arguing over 'may' or 'shall'.

Also duly noted was the Supervisor's reference to only 'lousy land' being left to develop. Although when has this ever stopped anyone. I can only think of one example in the last four years. So bring on the 3-D but ultimately, dig we must.

Mr. Trested's contention that 100 feet is plenty of buffer between commercial and residential is laughable at best and made me wonder if someone in the Camarda camp had somehow been able to hypnotize him from their front row seats. "You are getting sleepy, very sleepy..." Scheesh, raise your hand if you'd like to be 100 feet away from a Costco parking lot. Nah, didn't think so. And yeah, I know there are additional setbacks- still I believe we should really protect our residents from commercial depredation.

I rarely leave a meeting early but if you had to pick one this was it. Zzzzzzzzzzzz. I really, really lucked out here. Perhaps Ms. Croft will grace us with a mini-recap of the meeting's remains.

In any case, have a great weekend and as always please feel free to e-mail me with any comments or questions that you may have.

With Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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Lynne Eckardt
[lynneeckardt](#)

Sep 9, 2006
5:16 pm



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