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Message 999 of 1003 | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) [[Up Thread](#)] [Message Index](#)

From: "Lynne Eckardt" <midfarm@bestweb.net>

Date: Sat Dec 18, 2004 5:06 pm

Subject: SE Town Board Recap 12/16/04

Hi All,

This is going to be a short (for me) recap as the meeting Thursday night was over in a record breaking twenty somnolent minutes. Somnolent, that is, until the Q and A under new business. I'm only reporting what I think will be of interest to CRSE members.

All comments are, as always, my own. Draft minutes will be available on Thursday, December 30th. And being a regular Meeting there will be broadcasts of this on channel 8.

REGULAR MEETING:

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7:30 PM Release of Performance Bond- Roma Pools. Bond released. 5-0

7:31 PM: Release of Performance Bond/ Dedication Middlebranch Manor Bond released 5-0

7:32 PM Amendment Local Law 1/2002. Passed 5-0

4. Motion Setting Meeting Dates:

January 6, 2005 7:30 Civic Center Organizational/Work Session
January 13, 2005 7:30 Civic Center Work Session
January 20, 2005 7:30 Civic Center Regular Meeting

5. Motion setting the Following Public Hearings:Held at the Civic Center. Passed 5-0

January 20, 2005 7:30 Palazetti Warehouse/ Special Permit
7:31 Moratorium Variance/ Garden Homes Management
7:32 Release of Performance Bond Crossroads School
7:33 Special Permit/ Terravest 9 (Westchester Tractor)

7. Motion to reject bids received for the Foxhill and Blackberry Water District well

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connection. Passed 5-0

8. Resolution- Repeal Sign Moratorium. Passed 5-0

9. Resolution Wetland Permit- 59 Enoch Crosby Road Passed 4-1 (Mr. Bonanno voted against)

11. Resolution- Consent to allow Incorporation of Utility Companies

This was to set up Water and Sewage Companies at 'The Meadows at Dean Corners'. Both were passed by a vote of 5-0

New Business:

I asked the Board when and how they had decided to send the village their letter of support on Club Verona and what kind of help it offered. Lorraine Mitts said that she had spoken to Supervisor Dunford about Club Verona on the phone and assumed that others had as well. It was done on very short notice.

Because no specific help was offered that would have cost the town money there was no need to meet in an open forum. All admitted that they hadn't read the letter in a while and it wasn't available at this meeting. I asked what specific help that the town could offer and the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer was mentioned. Southeast has a full time officer- Brewster does not. Legal help was mentioned as well as general support. When I asked if the letter was like the 'generic' thank you note all said, no because it wasn't a thank you note but rather a letter of support. I asked if it was a generic letter of support and the Board agreed that it was.

There was a point when Supervisor Dunford asked if I was looking for any specific 'answer'. I replied 'no' that I was concerned with possible Open Meeting's law violations. For example, Southeast has not issued any Executive Meeting's minutes in the past two years. Town Clerk Mazzei assured me that in 13 years no financial decisions had been made in Executive Session thus minutes were not necessary. This would include the hiring of any outside counsel. Councilman Bonanno felt that even this would be exempt and deferred to Town Attorney Stephens. Mr. Stephens said that any expenditures made in Executive Session absolutely had to be reflected in minutes while legal strategy that did not.

The meeting was adjourned.

COMMENTS:

Public Hearing: Terra 9, Westchester Tractor:

This should be especially entertaining. At this point I'm not sure if we're going the 'light manufacturing' route, the warehouse route or the sales/rental route. Who knows- maybe for the hat trick. I have no idea who on the Town Board was buying the 'wholesale' only line, the light manufacturing 'mistakenly' left out of a new zoning code line or just the same old/same old warehouse 'special permit' that's trotted out on almost every occasion in every 'Office Park' 1 zone. But as always, I suspect that Mr. Lepler will get what Mr. Lepler wants.

New Business:

Well, I have to say if this had been done in court of law I'm sure I would have been held in contempt and led away in cuffs for 'badgering the witness'. It's just that every answer seemed to be vague at best. I suppose having the now infamous letter of support re Club Verona would have been helpful. I will dutifully FOIL for it.

The Town Board was really, really annoyed (this will be evident on the Suscom tape). In fact, at one point it looked like Supervisor Dunford wanted to lunge across the desk for me. And not in a good way. I question Mrs. Mazzei's assertion that no decisions have been made in Executive Session that would require minutes be taken. I'll investigate after Christmas when I have lots of time off. Yahoo! Idle hands being the Devil's workshop and all that.

I find it frustrating that so little is discussed in a public forum. I understand the expediency and efficiency of phone calls and the necessity of some outside discussion. But honestly when you sit through meeting after meeting and you haven't the vaguest idea how consensus is ever reached it's beyond irritating. Maybe all decisions are reached telepathically, kind of like 'Crossing Over'.

Actually the highlight of the evening came after the meeting. Several CRSE Board members went to Jack and Jill's for a fun filled meeting's post mortem. Imagine our surprise when the entire Town Board, including Town Counsel Stephens, Town Clerk Mazzei and Village Trustee Jim Schoenig, arrived. Talk about a chance social encounter! I mean, what are the odds? Jack and Jill's being the cavernous place it is accommodated both groups very nicely. Hey, does Jack and Jill's count as a public forum? Just asking.

By the way, I'm almost finished with my first Best of/Worst of Southeast List for 2004- an overall Recap as it were. I am not going to post this list via any public e-mail group. It's way too scathing for the general public and I wouldn't subject them to it. Basically I just need to vent. So if you'd like to receive 'Best of/Worst of' you'll need to e-mail me directly and I will see that you get one. Please send me your name with your request so that I may personalize my reply. I'm hoping to have the list ready to go by early next week. I'll do one more general post when it's complete. Or hit your reply button now and let me know.

As always please feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments that you may have. I believe that this is probably my last recap before the Holidays so I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year. I am always amazed at what a great audience I get to play to- you're the best. Many thanks-

Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt

Message 999 of 1003 | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) [[Up Thread](#)] [Message Index](#)

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