

Borough of Millstone
Planning Board
Regular Meeting
February 24 2009

Official Minutes Approved March 24, 2009

Vice-Chairperson Fung called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. There were two members of the public present.

Vice-Chairperson Fung read the following statement:

“The regular meeting of the Millstone Borough Planning Board will please come to order. Adequate notice of this meeting has been noticed to the Hillsborough Beacon and Courier News and posted at Borough Hall. If any member of this body believes this meeting is being held in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act, please state your views at this time, stating the reason for which you feel the notice is improper. Hearing none, we will proceed to the next item on the agenda.”

Roll Call:

Present:	Dan Devoti	Christine Fung
	Carol Halm	Carl Kestner
	Richard McDermott	Rebecca Newman
	John Prudente	Jessica Pyatt

Also present: Gerald J. Muller, Esq – Planning Board Attorney
Denise Piskowski, Board Secretary

Absent: Keith Dorschner Don Roden

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded by Ms. Fung, the Board opened the meeting to the Public.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Portia Orton of the Historic District Commission (HDC) informed the Board that an inventory of structures in the historic district was done by the HDC and they are in favor of relocating some of these buildings. She also informed the Board that she spoken to the Tax Collector and informed her that homes in the historic must be ‘tagged’ and if they are put up for tax sale the purchaser must be notified that the home is in an historic district and if purchased they must contact the HDC before doing any work to the home.

The HDC obtained information from SHPO to gather information for procedures on moving historic structures and how doing so would affect the historic district. Mr. Devoti asked about the Babiak property and informed Ms. Orton that is was currently up for sale. He asked what the process would be for a new owner who might want to either rehabilitate or demo the home. Ms. Orton stated that the property owner would have to contact the HDC for approval of any work done to the exterior of the home. An application would need to be filed with the State and inspections would have to be made at the State and Borough level before any demo would be allowed. The HDC would direct the process. The Board discussed procedures and the options for the property.

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded by Ms. Fung, the Board closed the meeting to the Public.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Devoti, the Board approved the January 27, 2009 meeting minutes.

REVIEW AND VOTE ON PROFESSIONALS' INVOICES

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded by Mr. Devoti, the Board approved the January 2009 invoices for Mr. Muller and Mr. Van Dyke.

OPEN TO THE BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Fung informed the Board that Mr. Van Dyke told her that the County has every intention of including the Borough for all planning decisions for the Rzem property.

Ms. Newman asked Mr. Devoti if he had spoken to the Grimshaws regarding the violations on their property. She also passed out pictures of the property violations to the Board. Mr. Devoti stated that he would look into this tomorrow. Mr. Devoti asked Mr. Muller if he could require Mr. Grimshaw to let him inspect the inside of the home to confirm that a business was being run from the home. Mr. Muller stated that Mr. Devoti could not do this. A discussion ensued on the Grimshaw violations.

REPORTS

Dan Devoti, Zoning Officer

Mr. Devoti stated that he would be issuing a summons to the Blackshears because the front porch is falling down. Mr. Prudente stated that he has noticed that a relative goes to the home at least once a week and that he had been inside the home and it is not in good shape.

Mr. Devoti informed the Board that the County had contacted him for an application to subdivide the Rzem property. Mr. Devoti sent him the application. A discussion ensued.

Don Hepworth of JPP Properties contacted Mr. Devoti about the stone that the County had put on his property during their roadwork on the culvert. Mayor Heck was supposed to have had this situation resolved. Mr. Hepworth stated his concern to Mr. Devoti that this was not in the site plan approved by the Board. A discussion ensued. Ms. Halm stated she would contact Mayor Heck.

Mr. Prudente informed the Board his neighbor had planted bamboo along their property line and it was invading his property. The Board discussed this and it was determined that this was not a Board issue.

Carol Halm, Council Person

Ms. Halm reported that:

- The re-assessment was completed with Deputy Tax Assessor Becky Newman's help and there are some pending tax sales that Becky was working on with the Tax Collector.
- A large limb had fallen at Borough Hall and Council determined that the trees in the Borough should be evaluated before major damage is done. She asked that dangerous trees be reported to the Mayor.
- The Borough records have been cataloged and a request for destruction has been sent to the State.
- The Mayor is looking into a structure to be located on Borough grounds for housing Borough records.

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- Franklin Township Police have been very active with patrols and enforcing speed limits as part of the new inter-local agreement. The response from the residents is positive. The inter-local agreement only covers traffic control. The State police are still used for all other police issues.
- The Mayor is looking to get a DWI stop in the Borough.
- Jim DeMuro is researching how to obtain stimulus money for water and sewer projects. If there were money available it would be through a bond sale with low interest loans at 1-2 percent.
- The new streetlight between Ann Street and County Road 650, original Amwell Road, is still a mystery.
- The disorderly persons ordinance has had a second reading
- The dog ordinance, repair ordinance and the other ordinances were tabled.
- The plan endorsement committee was reappointed
- 1st reading for the TND ordinance was done
- Van Cleef was asked to re-sign the sewer agreement with Hillsborough

Mr. Devoti informed the Board that he had received a report showing the escrow shortage for each application from Mr. Della Pia and it does not show enough detail. A discussion ensued. Ms. Halm will talk to Mr. Della Pia.

Mr. Muller informed the Board that the Federal Court has dismissed the Rzem litigation but they have 30 days to file with the State.

A marked up mediation agreement was received from Van Cleef.

The County will prepare or ask the Board to prepare a report recommending that Council determine that, with respect to the historic homes that need to be moved there is a need of rehabilitation. Mr. Muller gave the Board some details on how this project could progress and what the County might require. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Fung informed the Board that Ms. Pyatt would attend the March 6, 2009 SHPO meeting, with the HDC, on behalf of the Planning Board

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded by Ms. Halm, the Board opened the meeting to the Public.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Orton stated that at the March 6th meeting they would get answers to the questions that the Board has about the procedures for moving historic homes. A discussion ensued.

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded Ms. Halm, the Board closed the meeting to the Public.

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded Ms. Pyatt, the Board went into Executive Session.

On a motion by Ms. Newman, seconded Ms. Pyatt the Board agreed to close Executive Session and adjourn the meeting and at 8:54 pm.

Submitted,
Denise Piskowski
Planning Board Secretary