

**Township of Washington
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Planning Board Meeting
Minutes
May 7, 2014**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30PM

First Order of Business: Salutation to the Flag

Open Public Meetings Act: Read into the record by the Board Secretary.

Roll Call Taken:

Messrs. Dumaresq (absent), Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Councilman Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

Also in Attendance: Board Attorney Robert Wertalik; Board Engineer Paul Azzolina; Board Secretary JoAnn Carroll

Approval of Minutes: Sears, Pinnick

April 30, 2014

Ayes: Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

Open Public Portion: Pinnick, Sabino

Ayes: Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

No Public Comment

Close Public Portion: Pinnick, Sabino

Ayes: Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

Ms. Nancy Nash, 106 Douglas Drive, Block 1404.01, Lot 1: application for the removal of 12/13 trees on property.

Ms. Nash and Mr. Daniel Fredenburgh, Ken's Tree Care, Certified Arborist, (applicant's arborist) were sworn in by Mr. Wertalik, Board Attorney.

Chairman Calamari: stated that the Nash application was very thorough.

Ms. Nash: stated she had brought with her pictures of what her property looks like at this time which is what she is envisioning for the subject property.

Chairman Calamari: stated he was satisfied that all of the Board members had inspected the property by driving by; a detailed description was submitted to the Board by the arborist on all the trees that are proposed to be taken down; Chairman Calamari asked Mr. Azzolina to give the Board a verbal report on this application. (Please note: Mr. Azzolina visited and inspected the site.)

Mr. Azzolina: stated he reviewed the application documents which consisted of the arborist's report; the detailed description of each of the trees to be removed; spoke with the arborist and recommended that he provide a numbered site plan, which was subsequently provided and has been distributed to the Board; the plans and report speak of 13 tree removals; 4 different categories; 5 dead trees; 4 hazardous trees; 3 hazardous and undesirable species trees; 1 undesirable tree; can let the arborist speak on the specifics of each one of the categories if the Board so desires.

Chairman Calamari: stated the letters from the arborist have been reviewed by the Board and the Board has full knowledge of what the applicant is requesting.

Mayor Sobkowicz: had a question regarding notice given which was resolved by the applicant.

Mayor Sobkowicz: stated the original letter from the arborist was improved upon by the second letter submitted; letters regarding each tree, survey showing the location of each tree and a picture the trees is very helpful to the Board.

Ms. Nash: stated the ordinance does not state the above is needed for this type of application, but she was happy to provide additional information to the Board for their review.

Mayor Sobkowicz: stated she appreciated the additional materials.

Chairman Calamari: asked if the public had any questions regarding this application.

Ms. Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard: asked when the pictures of the trees were taken; why the trees were being taken down; did the Board members visit the property; was the property located along the Garden State Parkway; and was the land sloped.

Ms. Nash: stated the pictures were taken within the last week and the trees are being removed because they are dead.

All Board members present confirmed they had visited the property.

Ms. Nash: stated the property was located across the street from the GSP.

Mr. Fredenburgh: stated, as the arborist for this application, there would not be one spot of trees to be removed; very selective process; showed maps; there are 33/34 trees on the property; the trees to be removed are dangerous and/or hazardous.

Ms. Nash: stated she is replacing the trees to be removed with more trees; trees that are marked are going to be trimmed; they will be cleaned up; has lived in the Township for 30 plus years; wants to keep this area as common woods; not placing a house on the property; wants it natural; needs to get rid of all the dead material.

Ms. D'Ambra: asked if any living heritage trees would be removed.

Ms. Nash: stated "no"; there is one on the driveway that is dead; every time there is a storm half of it falls apart; branches fall down; further stated that she did go ahead and get a survey from a surveyor so every tree could be listed.

Mayor Sobkowicz: asked about the plantings to be done.

Mr. Azzolina: stated they are not shown on the plan.

Ms. Nash: stated she cannot make the decision where the new trees will be placed until the old ones are removed.

Motion to Approve Application: Pinnick, Sears

Ayes: Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

Chairman Calamari: stated he had asked the Board Attorney to prepare a resolution for this application so as not to have the applicant wait another month; the resolution might need minor revisions, but those revisions can be made this evening.

Board Secretary read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Wertalik: asked if the amount of trees to be removed was 12 or 13; was informed that one of the trees to be removed had fallen down on its own.

Ms. Nash: stated she had counted incorrectly and the amount of trees to be removed is 13.

Chairman Calamari: stated item #2 of the resolution should state that 13 trees are being removed.

Councilman Sears: asked if the replanting of trees should be listed in the resolution.

Chairman Calamari: stated this information is included in the applicant's documentation; it can be added but it is not required by the ordinance.

Mayor Sobkowicz: stated the trees cannot be in the right of way.

Ms. Nash: stated she would not plant any trees in the right of way.

Chairman Calamari: stated a sentence can be added in the resolution regarding the right of way.

Mr. Wortalik: asked for confirmation from the applicant that she plans to plant a minimum of 25 plantings.

Ms. Nash: stated "yes" but asked that it also be added that the plantings are weather dependent.

Chairman Calamari: stated there is no time constraint.

Mr. Wortalik: stated all that is needed in the resolution is a general statement to the applicant's intent.

Subject to the above mentioned changes, motion to approve resolution:
Pinnick, Sabino

Ayes: Golick, Murphy, Pinnick, Sabino, Sears, Chairman Calamari, Mayor Sobkowicz

Board Discussion regarding the cancellation of July 2, 2014 from the Planning Board schedule of meetings.

Chairman Calamari: asked the Board if they were in favor of cancelling the July 2, 2014 meeting from the Board's calendar due to the fact it has come to his attention that a number of members will be away because of the July 4th holiday.

The Board unanimously voted to cancel the July 2, 2014 meeting from the Board's calendar.

Motion to Adjourn: Sears, Pinnick

All Board members present approve motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted by:

JoAnn Carroll
Planning Board Secretary
May 8, 2014