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

Date: Fri Apr 23, 2004 5:36 pm

Subject: Southeast Town Board Recap 4/22/04

Hello All,

This agenda had 26 items so I am editing to what might be of interest CRSE members. Please forgive any exclusions. For the 'Best of' items skip to numbers 15 (Terravest) and 19 (Route 22). As always comments follow. Official minutes should be available by May 7th.

AGENDA:

10. THE MEADOWS: Although still in litigation street names have been assigned for 'The Meadows' project. The basic names are as follows: Drewcliffe, Dryfus Ridge, Stone Hollow, Ledge View, Valley View, Knoll Ridge and Serenity Ridge. All passed 5-0.

11. LAKE TONETTA ADVISORY BOARD: A motion to authorize \$3000 to the Lake Tonetta Advisory Board for yearly mailings. Passed 5-0.

12. DREWVILLE PUMP HOUSE: A motion authorizing Eventus Construction to perform DEP mandated safety improvements at the Drewville Pump Station in the amount of \$12,000. Passed 5-0.

15. TERRAVEST II, WETLANDS PERMIT: A resolution was passed (5-0) granting a wetlands permit to Terravest Phase II. The roll call vote was prefaced by Councilwoman Mitts explanation that she was compelled to vote for the wetlands permit because the project met all legal criteria. The resolution granting the permit was passed 5-0.

19. ROUTE 22: A resolution in support of the Route 22 improvements was passed by a vote of 5-0. The Board would like the DOT to proceed with this as expeditiously as possible. The Board feels feel that 'no major land use plan is necessary.'

20. HOME RULE: A resolution authorizing a letter to go to Assemblyman Stephens and Senator Liebell for 'Home Rule' was passed by a vote of 5-0. This letter is being sent to give the TB authority to change local hunting regulations from shooting within 500 feet of a residence to 1000 feet.

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26. PRESERVE AMERICA: A resolution regarding 'Preserve America' (a White House initiative on Historic Preservation) was passed 5-0.

COMMENTS:

As always these observations are strictly my own.

11. LAKE TONETTA ADVISORY BOARD: Thanks to the TB for allotting this money to the Lake Tonetta Advisory Committee Newsletters. Hopefully money will be forthcoming for a scientific lake study. A long term plan is needed to improve water quality now and in the future. What we don't need is the 'band aid' approach every 15 years.

12. DREWVILLE PUMP STATION: More problems for the Brewster Heights water district. Now, about that intake pipe and the 'impaired' quality of the Middle Branch Reservoir...

15. TERRAVEST: Ahhhh, Terravest. Parts of this project are within the wetland buffer. That's why it went before the Conservation Commission. No wetlands issues, no Conservation Commission recommendations needed. Simple.

What was most fascinating was the Town Board's insistence that they 'HAD' to vote for this permitting. Because for the first time in over a year and half the Conservation Commission had 2 dissenting votes. And one was from a hydrologist.

So, how is it that Lewisboro, North Salem and Bedford manage to keep 285,000 square ft. 'Food Packaging' Plants and the like out of their towns?

How is it that when push comes to shove (i.e. a TB vote) our 'Strict' new wetlands regs. just don't measure up?

How is it that the long standing policy of not granting permits while a project is in litigation goes right out the window when Terravest is involved?

And finally, let's not forget that, ironically, we're the one town almost entirely within the watershed. Go figure.

19. ROUTE 22: The Town Board is really pushing this one. When asked (by Ann Fanizzi) about Watershed Inspector General, James Tierney's comments re. ' Land Use' Supervisor Dunford replied that local land use was 'not within the Inspector General's purview.' Ah, but protecting the watershed is and 'Land Use' was mentioned for this reason.

When the same town in Putnam County that boasts having the 'strictest' environmental zoning regs also has the most approved development on deck it is right and proper that the Watershed Inspector General show concern. Strict 'Land Use' was simply a suggestion that might protect our town from future over development.

Rick O'Rourke (Village Justice and attorney for 'The Meadows') took this opportunity to thank the Town Board for their Comprehensive Plan (and it's reduction of residential density by 75% and reduction of commercial density by 40%) and for their pro-active stand on Route 22. Mr. O'Rourke is very knowledgeable on the Route 22 corridor as he has attended almost all TB meetings with Route 22 on the agenda.

Call me crazy, but could there be a large Route 22 commercial project in our future? The unsubstantiated rumor last year regarded a 'Fortune 500' company moving to Route 22 - but only if widened. And, of course, there was the sale of the land surrounding the Sports Dome. Hmmmm...

And on the light side; street names at the 'The Meadows'...

Sadly 'Serenity Ridge' has replaced the more apropos and cutting-edge 'Capitalist Court'. It would have been so much more fun to really have had a 'developer friendly' street name. But still, the number of Ridges, Valleys, Hollows and Cliffs embedded in the approved road names is amusing as

it is indicative of the overall lay of the land (steep slopes etc.) By the way, this project has an awful lot of streets for only two accesses.

As always feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments that you may have. Have a great weekend!

With Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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