

aghini_99 · aghini@rcn.com

CRSE · Concerned Residents of Southeast

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

Date: Fri Jul 23, 2004 3:15 pm

Subject: SE Town Board Recap 7/22/04

Hello All,

Last night's Town Board meeting was mercifully short. In fact if, I was told that if I hadn't opened my big mouth (my words not theirs') it would have been a record breaker. My bad.

There were only two items on the agenda that may be of interest to CRSE members. As always these are not official minutes. In theory the official draft minutes will be available in two weeks.

As always the comments that follow are my own.

REGULAR MEETING:

7. RESOLUTION- WETLANDS PERMIT Surace, Gage Road:

The Board voted 5-0 following the Conservation Commission's recommendation granting a Wetlands Permit. Some remediation will be done regarding fill in the buffer area.

8. RESOLUTION-WAIVER FROM MORATORIUM-DREWVILLE REALTY CORP.

The applicant wanted to enlarge his gas station on the corner of Route 6 and Drewville Road for additional cooler space. On a roll call vote the Board voted 4-1 to deny this waiver. The Board made it clear (the applicant was in the audience) that the Moratorium would be in effect for only another month or two and it was important for the Board to finalize regs. for the 'Gateway' area. Supervisor Dunford voted against this denial.

COMMENTS:

8. RESOLUTION- WAIVER FROM THE MORATORIUM, Drewville Realty Corp.

I thought it might be fun to start keeping a waiver and variance 'scorecard'. So starting out of the gate we've got our first Denial. Yipeee! Given the length of time left sorting out our 'Gateway Zoning' this makes a lot of sense. And although I enjoyed the sheer unpredictability of it I'm still puzzled by the Supervisor's vote.

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NEW BUSINESS:

I asked about a Journal News story this week regarding new office space for the Village via 'Eminent Domain'. My question last night was: When is the Board going to publicly discuss the possibility of a new Town Hall/Office Facilities?

In the JN article Supervisor Dunford said (paraphrase) that 'town leaders have not seriously discussed uses for the Route 312 land and are assessing office needs of various departments.' Mr. Dunford reiterated this stand last night asking Board members, 'Have we discussed this at all?' Which was met with a resounding (but rather unconvincing) in unison: 'No.'

In the article Dunford continued (paraphrase) that 'the structure (55 main Street) doesn't offer the town adequate space or parking.' So I'm wondering how this decision was reached? I know that it hasn't been discussed publicly and since Mr. Dunford is still 'assessing the office needs of various town departments.' How does he know that the space at 55 Main isn't adequate?

Cutting through all BS here one doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that all the town departments are in cramped quarters. You can 'assess' these needs until the cows come home but bottom line: More space is needed.

And why aren't we discussing it. Dear God, is it time to put together another infamous 'make work/have no power' committees to study whether we need more space and where the facilities might go?

In fact, since the one rather acrimonious meeting between the Town and Village there's been nothing. So the village moves ahead with plans on a new Town Hall while Southeast's governing officials continue to 'study' the obvious. This will preclude the possibility of sharing space which could possibly save taxpayer money while keeping the town within the village. C'mon guys, this is something really important that's been put off for years and years. Let's have some open dialogue, at least let the public know what you're thinking, and, most importantly let's get this job done.

As always feel free to e-mail me with any comments or questions that you might have.

Have a great weekend!

With best regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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