

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
182 WEST BRIDGE STREET
NEW HOPE, PA
MARCH 10, 2010
PUBLIC MEETING
AGENDA**

Present: Sharyn Keiser, Claire Shaw, Ed Duffy, Geri Delevich, Rey Velasco, Bill Scandone, Mayor Larry Keller, Borough Manager John Burke, Borough Solicitor T. J. Walsh, and Chief of Police Mike Cummings.

Absent: Richard Hirschfield.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller had nothing to report.

Council President's Report

Sharyn Keiser stated that there was no executive session before the meeting tonight.

Sharyn Keiser stated that there have been no new change orders for the New Street Town and Community Center Project since her last report to Council.

Sharyn Keiser stated that there would be an open house at Borough Hall on March 18, 2010, between 1-4 pm.

Sharyn Keiser announced that the Parking Management Study would be presented to Council in April.

Sharyn Keiser stated that she had received a letter from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission announcing the Borough has been awarded a TCDI grant totaling \$40,000. This is for a bicycle strategy and marketing initiative planning study for the four Landmark Towns communities.

Jackie Liney of the U.S. Census Bureau talked about the importance of the 2010 Census. She also encouraged the public to participate by filling out the Census forms.

Consent Agenda

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, as follows.

1. Consideration of approving payment of accounts payable for and March 10, 2010, in the amount of \$220,554.16, of payroll for February 10, 2010, in the amount of \$60,008.94, and of payroll for February 24, 2010, in the amount of \$57,965.90.
2. Consideration of approving issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness as recommended by HARB, for:
 - (1) 110 S. Main Street by Robert & Elisa Kascik, for exterior painting and new front door;
 - (2) 74 Old York Road by Ann Olson to replace an existing porch; and
 - (3) 72 North Main Street by John & Jacqueline Hover, to enclose a porch.

Rey Velasco moved to approve the consent agenda, and Claire Shaw seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Council Vice President's Report

Claire Shaw asked for consideration of appointing Fran Ferrone as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire December 31, 2012.

Claire Shaw moved to approve the appointment, and Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

Bill Scandone stated that he had a concern about the process of selection and made a recommendation that the appointment be tabled so that Council has a chance to review the resume. **Mr. Scandone** stated that there was scant information available on the candidate and that it was impossible to assess her credentials. He suggested that available vacancies be publically noticed and that candidates submit resumes.

Sharyn Keiser stated that the chair of the board on which a vacancy occurs usually recommends appointments to Council. In this case, Ms. Ferrone sent an email to the Borough Manager indicating an interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board. The manager forwarded the email to the chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, who shared the email with all members of the Board. The chair then sent an email to the manager recommending Ms. Ferrone's appointment.

Geri Delevich stated that vacancies could be advertised on the Borough website. **Ms. Delevich** also stated that vacancies should not be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rey Velasco stated that residents will make known their desire to serve the community.

Glen Stephan stated that some positions are more important than others and that it would be best to obtain as much information as possible.

Sharyn Keiser stated that Fran Ferrone's background was available to Council before tonight's meeting, and that she is qualified. **Ms. Keiser** agreed that more time could be spent on considering a new appointment in the future.

Bill Scandone stated that he would draft a policy for appointing individuals to advisory boards and commissions.

The motion was passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Bill Scandone voting against.

Sharyn Keiser asked for consideration of appointing Mr. Dan Peel to the Recycling Committee.

Ed Duffy stated that Dan Peel is the manager of the Village 2 Association, that he has exceptional experience in recycling, and that he will be a great asset to the Committee.

Sharyn Keiser stated that the chair of the Recycling Committee recommended Mr. Peel.

Ed Duffy moved to approve the appointment, and Geri Delevich seconded. The motion was passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Bill Scandone voting against.

Recreation Board and Revitalization Committee Reports (Sharyn Keiser, Claire Shaw, Ed Duffy & Bill Scandone).

Claire Shaw asked Libby Neiburg if the Recreation Board was considering honoring the Biermans and if so, what is being planned?

Libby Neiburg answered that the Board is considering some type of recognition at a future event.

Claire Shaw suggested that a plaque be presented to the Biermans.

Manager's & Solicitor's Reports.

Land Use and Historic Preservation Report (Ed Duffy & Rey Velasco)

Ed Duffy asked for consideration of approving a preliminary/final plan of land development, submitted by Mr. Glenn Stephan, for T.M.P. No. 27-10-31, located at 28 West Bridge Street in the CC zoning district.

John Burke asked if the applicant would agree to all conditions in the draft approval letter dated March 10, 2010.

Glen Stephan agreed to all the conditions.

Mr. Stephan stated that there are three issues that he would like to discuss with Council. The first involves a requirement for planting 2 trees on the west side of the property bordering the parking lot. The trees will not fit in this space, and they would not provide an effective screen. The second issue involves a letter to PA DCNR, which was recommended by the Planning Commission, asking the state to place some type of barrier between the canal and the towpath. The third issue involves waivers from the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance concerning parking lot layout.

Ed Duffy stated that the Borough Engineer has no objection to the elimination of the parking lot trees.

Claire Shaw stated that a letter should be written to PA DCNR asking for a low vegetative barrier.

Ed Duffy stated that a barrier might hinder access for fire equipment.

Bill Scandone stated that a barrier would impede the ability of the mule barge to navigate the area.

Glenn Stephan stated that a barrier would cause an unsafe condition and that PA DCNR uses his property for access to maintain the canal.

Geri Delevich asked about the plan to plant two sugar maple trees in the right-of-way of West Bridge Street. **Ms. Delevich** asked if the applicant would adhere to the list of approved shade trees published by the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Stephan stated that he would comply with the Commission's list of approved trees.

Geri Delevich asked if Mr. Stephan would be willing to seek the approval of HARB and the Public Works Department for the proposed installation of railing along the front of his property.

Mr. Stephan agreed to this request.

Ed Duffy stated that Mr. Stephan should write a letter to PA DCNR asking for its recommendation, if any, on the issue of installing a barrier between the canal and the towpath.

Claire Shaw moved to approve the preliminary/final plan subject to Mr. Stephan's agreement with the proposed conditions of approval cited in the Manager's draft letter of March 10th, the elimination of the two side yard trees, the granting of waivers for the parking lot layout, the replacement of the railing along the steps in front of the property, the planting of shade trees approved by the Shade Tree Commission, the approval of the proposed railing along the front of the property by HARB and Council, and the installation of a street light to adequately illuminate

the stairs in front of the property, and the submission of a letter to PA DCNR asking for its recommendation, if any, on the matter of installing some type of barrier between the canal and the towpath.

Bill Scandone seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Works Report (Richard Hirschfield & William Scandone)

Bill Scandone asked for consideration of authorizing the Borough Manager to hire one of two part-time laborers for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Scandone stated that the Borough would realize a substantial savings since this employee will not have any benefits. The individual was recommended by the Public Works Director, Tom Carroll, after public advertisements were placed in newspapers and the Borough's website. Over 30 applications were received for the two positions. This individual's background and experience satisfies the requirements for the position. Mr. Carroll will present a recommendation next month on the second part-time position.

Geri Delevich moved to approve the recommendation, and Rey Velasco seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Affairs Report (Geri Delevich & Rey Velasco)

Rey Velasco moved to approve a request by the New Hope Solebury Community Association to hold the 52nd Annual New Hope Auto Show on August 14th and 15th 2010, subject to the usual conditions including a review by the Fire Marshall and the submission of a hold harmless agreement and Certificate of Insurance.

Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Rey Velasco moved to approve a request for placement of temporary banners by St. Martin of Tours Church promoting its 125th Jubilee Celebration. Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Brooks, representing New Hope Celebrates, thanked the Police Department for applying for the PaDOT permit required for the parade.

Dan Brooks asked for permission to close certain roads for a parade on Saturday, May 15, 2010, between 12 pm and 1:30 pm. Mr. Brooks also requested that West Mechanic Street be closed from 12 pm to 6 pm that day. The parade will run south on Rt. 179 to Ferry Street, where it will veer right and proceed to the intersection of Rt. 32 (S Main Street) and disburse at the intersection of Waterloo and South Main near the old Gazette office.

Rey Velasco moved to approve the requests subject to the applicant submitting a parade route along with all the other requirements including but not limited to a hold harmless agreement, a Certificate of Insurance, and reimbursement of the Police Department for any overtime expense that may be incurred by the police for the parade. Ed Duffy seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Geri Delevich asked Mr. Preston Harrison to present his plan to create a tile mural at the Community Center on New Street.

Mr. Harrison stated that it would be a 2-year project to create and install the mural. He stated that he could raise the money on his own or in cooperation with the Borough. **Mr. Harrison** stated that the theme would be the history of New Hope.

Council was enthusiastic about the presentation and was impressed with Mr. Preston's work. Further discussion would have to take place before this matter is voted on formally.

Community Activities Report

Geri Delevich announced that she would like to see the monthly Visitors' Center report include month-to-month sales comparisons.

Ed Duffy stated that the Visitors' Center and the Chamber should try to work together.

Geri Delevich stated Restaurant Week is planned for March 21-26 and encouraged the audience to take advantage of the great buys at \$29.95 in many great restaurants throughout town.

Other Business

Public Comment

Glen Stephan asked for consideration to have a the Renaissance Fair on Mechanic Street and asked if the Chamber could have permission to close the street from April 17th at 8 AM to April 18th at 8 PM.

Sharyn Keiser asked if the merchants of West Mechanic Street support this proposed road closure.

Glenn Stephan stated that he could not speak to that.

Sean Lawson, who owns a business on West Mechanic Street, stated that we support this event.

Chief Cummings stated that he had no objection to the road closing overnight as long as the Chamber agreed to provide security.

Glenn Stephan stated that the Chamber would provide security.

Rey Velasco moved to approve to approve the Chamber's request to close West Mechanic Street, from Main St. to New St., starting at 8 am on April 17th and ending at 8 pm on April 18, 2010. This approval was conditioned upon the consent of the Mechanics Street merchants, the issuance of a noise ordinance exemption permit, if applicable, by the Chief of Police, and provision of an executed hold harmless and indemnification agreement and certificate of insurance, naming New Hope Borough as an additional insured.

Bill Scandone seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Sean Lawson of Zoubi's asked Council if they would consider allowing him to rent two meters on New Street for \$140.00 a week.

Ed Duffy stated that this might have an impact on the adjacent residential neighborhood by increasing traffic on New Street.

T. J. Walsh mentioned that this would require an ordinance if Council were to approve this.

Sharyn Keiser stated that Council would have to assess what would be involved in approving this request and its impact on the neighborhood.

Council decided to take more time to research this request, evaluating how this would impact the immediate area and the Borough.

Adjournment.