

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
182 WEST BRIDGE STREET
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2009
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Sharyn Keiser, Claire Shaw, Geri Delevich Ed Duffy, Richard Hirschfield, Randall Flager, Rey Velasco, Mayor Larry Keller, Borough Manager John Burke, Solicitor T. J. Walsh.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keller announced that a traffic study planned for West Bridge Street was recently completed. The data will be presented at Council's November meeting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sharyn Keiser announced that the New Street project is coming along nicely, and the change orders, up to this point, have amounted to only \$17,832. **Ms. Keiser** thanked Tom Carroll for his efforts in overseeing the construction activities at the New Street location.

Geri Delevich asked if it is possible for the committee of Council that was selected to oversee the project at the design stage to conduct a site inspection at this time.

Sharyn Keiser agreed to conduct a tour of the site for Ms. Delevich and other interested Council members.

Sharyn Keiser announced that JMT, the consultant for the parking management study, had presented the business, resident and local government surveys at the last Planning Commission meeting on October 6, 2009. There will be a sidewalk assessment of the downtown area conducted on Monday, October 19, 2009. There will be two individuals walking throughout the Borough with yellow jackets and using hand held computers with built in cameras.

Sharyn Keiser announced that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) added New Hope, Pa. to its Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia marketing initiative program, which is aimed at

growing, revitalizing and supporting the region's older suburbs and urban neighborhoods. New Hope is one of nine towns selected for the second phase of the Classic Towns initiative, bringing the total number of Classic Towns to twenty. More than one million people re-locate to the region each year. The Classic Towns program highlights the "classic" communities and helps future residents and business owners discover the beauty and diversity of the regions older towns. Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia was developed to appeal to three target markets: young professional/childless couples, young families, and empty nesters. Locally, DVRPC works with each Classic Town to understand its marketing and community development needs.

Sharyn Keiser introduced Elissa Thorne and Donna Boone to present the Landmark Towns of Bucks County Strategic Wayfinding Plan.

Elissa Thorne stated that the Landmark Towns project is a regional economic development initiative of four boroughs located along the Delaware Canal and River - Bristol, Morrisville, New Hope and Yardley. Each has a traditional historic downtown business district. The Landmark Towns project is designed to help these small towns breath renewed economic life into their business districts, while preserving and enhancing the industrial and cultural heritage they share. All of these boroughs have exhibited the will and interest to improve their quality of life, preserve historic resources, and enhance economic conditions. Representatives from participating towns worked with the D&L to develop a Regional Downtown Revitalization Plan, which was approved by PA DCED and became the basis for state funding of the Regional Coordinator's position. In addition, each Borough has also committed to a five year funding plan.

Ms. Thorne stated that representatives from each of the four town's local business groups, civic organizations and municipal governments worked on the Strategic Wayfinding Plan. A Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission TCDI Grant was obtained to fund the plan. The Plan was developed by Wallace Roberts & Todd, LCC with Cloud Gershan Associates for the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc., and Landmark Towns of Bucks County. The purpose of the plan is to make it easier to navigate to, from, and through each Landmark Town, thereby improving the vitality, local economy, and

quality of life in the towns. The plan identifies various signage used to guide travelers and recommended sign alternatives and concepts for areas within and outside each of the four boroughs. In some cases, if the sign alternatives are to be implemented as recommended, it involves working with PennDOT for approval.

Ms. Thorne stated that pages 24 through 33 of the plan provide recommendations and examples for highway wayfinding signs that will need PennDOT approval. The plan recommends that signage follow PennDOT standards, but use another available sign type to communicate directions and destinations. In addition, the plan recommends a sign audit be conducted in New Hope Borough to identify signs that can be consolidated or removed to reduce sign clutter, especially along Bridge Street (SR 179) and Main Street (SR 32), which include various state signs.

Ms. Thorne stated that there is \$10,000 in place for a signage prototype. Landmark Towns will consider using this prototype as a template when the time comes to replace signage in the area. The plan provides 59 different vertical and horizontal treatments for directional and informational signs, including poster type signs for buildings that are vacant.

Geri Delevich asked if there is a chance that there will be money available for local artists in terms of local signage for the new Borough facility.

Randall Flager stated that the study could be used to eliminate sign clutter in downtown New Hope.

Elissa Thorne answered that the signs would have to be consistent in shape, size, and color and provide continuity throughout the Borough. At this point, the plan does not include work by local artists.

Elissa Thorne announced that the D&L is hosting its first Partnership Recognition Dinner on November 5th and will be handing out seven awards at the dinner. This year New Hope will be recognized for heritage development.

Sharyn Keiser thanked Elissa and Donna.

CONSENT AGENDA

Sharyn Keiser asked for consideration of approving the consent agenda, as follows.

- A. Consideration of approving payment of accounts payable for October 14, 2009, in the amount of \$386,209.99; of payroll for September 9, 2009, in the amount of \$55,895.13; of payroll for September 23, 2009, in the amount of \$74,896.94; and of payroll for October 7, 2009 in the amount of \$55,626.46.
- B. Consideration of approving the minutes of the August 12 and September 9, 2009 public meetings of Council.
- C. Consideration of appointing Shirley Hart to the Board of Directors of the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury for a term expiring December 1, 2010.
- D. Consideration of adopting **Resolution No. 2009-13R**, establishing member contributions to the Police Pension Plan in 2010.
- E. Consideration of approving issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by HARB, for:
 - (1) 54 N. Main St., by Demaris Foote, for amending a July 2009 Certificate of Appropriateness with respect to exterior painting and construction materials for an addition;
 - (2) 45 S. Main St., by the New Hope Historical Society, for installation of a fence;
 - (3) 45 S. Main St., by Celt-Iberia Traders, for installation of two signs;
 - (4) 88 S. Main St., by Jeffrey Greene, for roof replacement;
 - (5) 102 New St., by Dana & Justin Lucas, for conversion of shed to living space;
 - (6) 58 W. Ferry St., by Caryl Benjamin, for porch renovations; and
 - (7) 42 N. Main St., by Paul Weinstein, for installation of two signs.

Claire Shaw moved to approve the consent agenda, and Randall Flager seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PARK & RECREATION BOARD AND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Claire Shaw announced that she would like to remind and encourage the audience to support the local Farmers' Market on Thursdays at the High School grounds from 3 pm to 7 pm.

MANAGER'S AND SOLICITOR'S REPORTS

LAND USE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORT

Ed Duffy asked T. J. Walsh to elaborate on **Resolution No. 2009-14R**, approving a revision to the New Hope Borough Official Sewage Facilities Plan for the Gyimesi Tract.

T. J. Walsh stated that the DEP requires a municipality to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters of the Commonwealth and/or environmental health hazards. The Gyimesi tract qualifies as a revision to the Borough's Sewage Facilities Plan pursuant to DEP regulations. Any revision requires municipal approval by resolution. The two adjacent property owners propose to share an existing sewage force main, built many years ago by one of the property owners, to convey sewage from the lots to Route 232, and then to Route 32, where it connects to an existing main owned by the BCWSA.

Mr. Walsh stated that Council is also being asked to approve an operation and maintenance agreement for the force main among the property owners and the Borough. The property owners agree to hold the Borough harmless from any liabilities with respect to the agreement. The property owners also agree to establish an escrow account with the Borough in the event that the Borough would have to hire an entity to repair the force main.

Steve Coppens asked why this was not taken care of when the connections were being made a few years ago?

Sharyn Keiser answered that the connections a few years ago involved public water, not sewer. The sewer system was constructed around 1960.

Tom Applebach, the applicant's engineer, stated it is a private system and the Department of Health does not have a record of the permits issued for the site, which is why these requirements need to be met.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution 2009-14R**.

Richard Hirschfield moved to approve **Resolution 2009-14R**, and **Randall Flager** seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Sharyn Keiser announced that there is a second part to matter, which is the operation and maintenance agreement.

T. J. Walsh stated that this agreement covers the installation of a grinder pump and force main to serve the existing four-bedroom single-family dwelling located at 298 Windy Bush Road in New Hope Borough, and this is an agreement with the actual property owners.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion.

Richard Hirschfield moved to approve the agreement, and Randall Flager seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Ed Duffy announced that the next item on the agenda is a review and discussion of a draft ordinance amending the Historic Architectural Review Board Ordinance. The changes are specific to defining the disassembling and reassembling process as well as the protection of the structure during this process. The posting of financial security is required to ensure that any relocated or disassembled contributing resource is reassembled.

Randall Flager moved to advertise the ordinance for a public hearing, and Richard Hirschfield seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPORT

Geri Delevich introduced Laura Schrock, owner of The Todd's Show, and the producer Tim McMurtry. They asked the audience to check the website and enjoy the dog shows, which uses many local people in supporting roles.

Lawrence Booth, a trustee of the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, announced that there would be a fund raising event for the library at Cintra, which is across the street from the high school, on November

21st. The tickets are \$100.00 per person, and all the proceeds go to the library. Tickets can be purchased from Mel Bladey. **Mr. Booth** requested permission to place a 49" x 69" banner, to go up in 2 days from tonight's meeting until November 22, 2009 to advertise the open house tour. The banner will be placed over the existing sign at the site. **Mr. Booth** also asked that the Police Department provide an officer to assist people crossing from the school parking lot to Cintra for this event.

Rey Velasco moved to approve the banner and to provide police services free of charge for this worthwhile event, and Richard Hirschfield seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Rey Velasco reminded the audience to get flu shots.

Geri Delevich announced the documentary premier event of "Embraceable You," starting at 6:30 pm at the Bucks County Playhouse on November 17th.

Richard Hirschfield encouraged the audience to see the New Hope Arts show called "Second Skin Dressed for Success." There will be a fashion show and a silent auction on November 24, from 7 pm until 9 pm.

Sharyn Keiser announced that the next Regular meeting for Council is November 4th, 2009.

Geri Delevich asked Council to write a letter to Congressman Murphy opposing federal legislation to increase the maximum weight of trucks.

Geri Delevich urged Council to come up with alternatives for banner displays in 2010, stating that the Starbucks building will no longer be available.

Geri Delevich stated that Borough hall could be decorated for Halloween by using private donations only.

Sharyn Keiser stated that there are lots of fun Halloween activities planned in the Borough this year. The information is available on the Chamber's web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Coppens wanted Council to know that he was approached after the meeting last month and criticized for his opinion on the Noise Ordinance.

Steve Coppens asked if anything was going to be done about the amount of window signage at the retail food shop located on West Bridge Street.

Elaine McNealy, North Main Street, questioned attendance by Council members at public meetings. **Ms. McNealy** stated that she expects Council members to attend public meetings.

Rey Velasco stated that he missed a recent Council meeting due to the death of a family member.

ADJOURNMENT