

Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes January 9, 2013

Attendees: Bill Albergo, Jackie Bay, Margaret Gossett, Allison Rankin, Marnie Vyff

Members of the Public: Nancy DuTertre, Gretchen Fry, Mimi Kaplan and Lynn Uhrig

Public Comment: Gretchen Fry indicated that the next planning board meeting in Parsippany is on Feb. 11. She feels there is an impact on the ML environment. According to Gretchen, it is imminent and urgent that EC and the Planning Board take action. Gretchen read a statement from Paul Selver, a former ML Planning Board attorney with vast experience in land use zoning (attachment 1) She strongly urged the EC to use a lawyer to give testimony at the next planning board meeting.

Nancy Dutertre urged the Commission to get involved immediately since the Parsippany Planning Board will vote on the zoning change on February 11. We need to let Parsippany know how outraged we are. Nancy wants the EC to request to be put on the agenda at the next Parsippany Planning Board meeting. She suggested that Council hire experts on water, trees, traffic, noise and light pollution and that they should give testimony at the Parsippany Planning Board meeting. Another major concern is that property values are going to drop. She has documentation from a certified real estate appraiser to support statement. She is also concerned about the aquifer recharge in Parsippany and the future water shortages predicted by NJDEP in 2030. She said we need to worry about this now and need to make our voices heard.

Lynn Uhrig asked the commission to consider a continuation of this meeting and not adjourn. She said she likes the idea of exploring different tactics. Need expert witnesses on points such as traffic, water, planning and an appraiser. Need these witnesses to get on the agenda at the Parsippany Planning Board meeting on February 11th. She said we should not wait three weeks to go before Council. The witnesses would need time to prepare testimony for the Planning Board since the Parsippany Council will not be taking testimony. She also said it was the responsibility of the EC, Planning Board and Council to protect Mountain Lakes from the negative impact this potential project could have. She thought Bob Tovo is allowed to hire these experts. She said we need to take a strong position and move on this immediately. Also, if the Parsippany Planning Board votes in favor of the zoning change, it becomes legally challenging for the Parsippany Council to vote against it.

Other Business

Green Reels: The kick off Green Reels event was a success. The initial half hour with snacks made for a relaxing evening. Allison Rankin and Mimi Kaplan created a display of the new items that can now be recycled in town. Marnie introduced the film, The Clean Bin Project, which was about breaking consumption and waste habits and emphasized the personal struggle in changing habits. After the film, Bill Albergo spoke on the new municipal solid waste pickup contract and detailed what can now be recycled. There were a few questions about the details. There were about 35 attendees including about eight high school students, six out of towners (Boonton Twp, Denville, and Ridgewood). The next event is February 13th and deals with green building renovations.

Action Items:

- Margaret will call Passaic River Coalition to determine impact of paving over 75% of woodland in an aquifer recharge zone.
- Jackie will call Sandy Batty for expert recommendations. Draft memo from the EC to the Borough Council outlining our position.
- Determine if RD Realty should be required to complete an EIS.

The EC voted to continue the meeting on January 16, Wednesday at 7:30 at Borough Hall.