

The June 16, 2008 meeting of the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham was called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read into the record. The agenda for the meeting included discussion of the Walkway and Bikeway Plan and the Memorialization of the Resolution for Amended Minor Subdivision, with Amended Slope Variance for Applicant Ronald Gunn.

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Roll Call

Board members present included Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Browne, Mr. Caprioglio, Mrs. Chambers, Mr. Ciccarone, Mr. Cohn, Mrs. Kenny, Ms. Hagner and Mr. Hurring. Board professionals present included attorney William Robertson, planner Frank Banisch and his associate Angela Clerico.

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Minutes

Mr. Cohn requested a change to the February 4, 2008 minutes. Mr. Hurring moved the amended minutes be approved, as amended, and Mr. Cohn seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion, except for Mr. Ciccarone, who abstained.

Regarding the February 25, 2008 minutes, Mr. Ciccarone moved to approve and Mr. Hurring seconded, with all in favor.

Mr. Caprioglio requested a change to the March 3, 2008 minutes. Mr. Browne moved to approve the amended minutes and Mr. Caprioglio seconded, with all in favor, except for Mr. Ciccarone, who abstained.

Mr. Browne requested a change to the March 17, 2008 minutes. Mr. Browne moved to approve the amended minutes and Mr. Ciccarone seconded. All members voted in favor, except for Mr. Caprioglio, who abstained.

Mr. Browne requested a change to the April 14, 2008 minutes. Mr. Browne moved to approve the amended minutes and Mr. Ciccarone seconded, with all in favor.

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Applications

Memorialization for Applicant Ronald Gunn

Mr. Robertson indicated that there was a memo from Mr. Ruschke (dated June 11, 2008) that he did not have when the Resolution was drafted. Mr. Robertson stated the memo should be added as a condition that the Applicant should comply with the Township engineer's memorandum dated June 11, 2008.

After discussion about the tree maintenance and safety issues (which will be signed off on by Mr. Ruschke), Mr. Robertson reviewed the changes to the Memorialization. Mr. Browne moved to approve the amended Memorialization of the Resolution and Mrs. Chambers seconded. At roll call vote, all eligible members voted, "yes".

Mr. Robertson stated he had prepared a letter regarding the enforcement issue and circulated the draft. With no objections from the Board, Mr. Robertson will forward the letter to the governing body.

Mr. Gunn thanked the Board for the exceptional review of the subject properties and reviewed the remedial work that has begun.

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Discussions

Walkway and Bikeway Plan

Mrs. Chambers stated that this meeting's discussion kicks off the process of reviewing the Walkway and Bikeway Plan that has been prepared. Mrs. Chambers said that the process will culminate in the fall with the proposal that it be adopted as part of the Master Plan. Mrs. Chambers said there would be an official introduction and public meeting and then a vote.

Mrs. Chambers provided background for the Walkway and Bikeway Plan. Mrs. Chambers stated the Township Committee, under the leadership of Bill O'Connor, charged the Open Space Committee with making the Walkway and Bikeway Plan a priority. Mrs. Chambers continued that the Committee also approved Open Space funds to be used to hire a consultant (Banisch Associates) to work with the Open Space Committee over the past year to develop the plan. Mrs. Chambers stated that it was being brought to the Planning Board, as the Planning Board would adopt it into the Master Plan. Mrs. Chambers commented that it was also being brought to the public's attention for more input.

Mrs. Chambers introduced Angela Clerico, consultant from Banisch Associates, to review the plan. Ms. Clerico distributed a handout and reviewed it via a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Clerico stated the purpose for the Walkway and Bikeway Plan is to create safe, accessible and convenient connections throughout the Township for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Ms. Clerico indicated the 1999 plan provided the foundation for the project. The project was multi-staged and involved the development of one-year, three-year and five-year time frame action plans. The project focused on connecting people to open spaces to enjoy the beauty of Chatham Township. A variety of activity centers, including libraries, shopping centers and community facilities, were identified.

Ms. Clerico said that the Township recently received funding for two projects: the Chatham Street/Rose Terrace connector and the Southern Boulevard/Spring Street connector. Potential funding sources were also discussed.

Members of the public made comments about sidewalks and safety issues for children walking to school. Two residents of Fairview Avenue (Chatham Borough) expressed their concern for safety for pedestrians on Fairview.

Township resident Tom Bondurich (Long Hill Lane) commented that there was a plan for a bike path running through his back yard and the back yards of six of his neighbors. Mr. Bondurich stated that there was no mention of the fact that it was going across private property and no mention of eminent domain and no contact of the affected residents. Mr. Bondurich also stated that he had a copy of a letter to the Open Space Committee from public service dated 1995 that denied access for a bike path on the public service easement. Mrs. Hoag commented that that was a conceptual plan only. Mr. Bondurich suggested that the Township should notify all directly affected homeowners so they are aware of the meeting and can speak out about the subject.

Township resident Jack Hartford also expressed concern about a bike path on the pipe line and the need for the language in the Master Plan regarding Green Village Road be clear.

Mr. Hartford stated residents may be concerned about widening the shoulder of the road and decreasing the size of their front yards, which was not the plan.

Following the review, Ms. Clerico discussed the Public Participatory Geographic Information system (PPGIS), a layering of mapping with an opportunity for direct public feedback via the Internet on the Walkway and Bikeway Plan. Ms. Clerico stated the website could be accessed at www.banisch.com/chatham/ with the user name/password of *chatham*. Ms. Clerico encouraged individuals to access the PPGIS and make comments.

Mrs. Chambers thanked the Board and the public for their comments and stated that discussions would continue in the fall.

There being no further business, the June 16, 2008 meeting of the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Hollerith
Recording Secretary