

**HARDWICK TOWNSHIP PLANNING/LAND USE BOARD
JANUARY 14, 2021**

There was the reorganization and regular meeting of the Hardwick Township Planning/Land Use Board on Thursday, January 14, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Attorney Glenn Gavan. He led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and he stated that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act". The oaths of office were administered to Mayor Duffy, Ms. Caffrey, Ms. Butler and Ms. Schemm prior to the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

The following Planning Board Members were present: Mayor Kevin Duffy, Jim McKim, Lori Gold, Cynthia Caffrey, Edwin Fisher, Jodi Butler, William Hughes, and Alt. #4 Alfia Schemm.

REORGANIZATION:

Election of Chairman

Attorney Gavan called for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Hughes made the motion to nominate Jim McKim. Motion seconded by Ms. Gold. Attorney Gavan asked if there were any other nominations. With there being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of electing Jim McKim as Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman McKim made the motion to nominate Bill Hughes for Vice Chairman. Motion seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of electing William Hughes as Vice Chairman.

Appointment of Board Professionals/Board Secretary

Mr. Fisher made the motion to appoint Glenn Gavan as the Board Attorney, Alfia Schemm as the Board Secretary, French and Parrello as the Board Engineer. Motion seconded by Chairman McKim. In a roll call vote, all were in favor. Mr. Fisher had a question regarding the exit clause in the French and Parrello contract, which was reviewed by Board Attorney Gavan.

Designation of Meeting Dates, Time and Place/Official Newspapers

Chairman McKim made the motion to designate the 2nd Thursday of the month as the Board Meeting dates, commencing at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom until further notice. Motion seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Designation of Official Newspapers

Chairman McKim made the motion to designate the NJ HERALD and EXPRESS TIMES, as the official newspapers, the same as the Governing Body. Motion seconded by Mr. Fisher. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Introduction of French & Parrello

Mayor Duffy briefed the Board on the engineering service discussions between the neighboring municipalities, Ted Rodman, and French and Parrello. Denis Keenan and Ryan Brownell, from French & Parrello were present and they introduced themselves to the Board and the Board Members introduced themselves to Mr. Keenan and Mr. Brownell.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2020, were distributed to all Board Members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Hughes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Ms. Schemm, who abstained.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Steep Slopes

The Board discussed, at great length, the materials that were emailed out in regards to steep slopes definition.

In a motion made and seconded, the meeting was opened to the public. In a voice vote all in favor.

Mr. Butcher stated that he agrees with the discussion and comments made this evening.

He stated his concern with creating unnecessary variance applications. He commented on the excellent work done by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chris Jacksic also agreed with the comments made and not wanting to create unnecessary variance applications.

With there being no further public comment, there was a motion made and seconded, to close the meeting to the public.

The Board then discussed the procedure in the steep slopes recommendation.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to suggest a 35 percent steep slopes recommendation. Motion seconded by Mr. Hughes, with additional recommended language. Mr. Fisher agreed. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Chairman McKim stated that he will work with the Board Engineer to prepare the language, so it can be forwarded to the Township Committee, for their consideration. The Board Members agreed.

Liaison Update-General Township Matters

Mayor Duffy provided the following update: Discussion with Altice and Planet Network regarding internet. He stated that efficient internet is critical with the amount of people now working from home. He went on to provide an update on the Route 80 rockwall issue and he stated that they also want to upgrade the Township Website.

Mr. McKim stated that the Slabtown Creek Park brochure is out for printing and will be available at the Park. He stated that a trails organization has recognized the Park, which may generate more traffic.

The Board then discussed the oaths of office and it was agreed to either send them to Board Attorney Gavan, who can acknowledge them or the Township Clerk can notarize them.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public

BILLS: The following vouchers were submitted for payment:

Ted Rodman - General	\$ 102.75
Ted Rodman - DiStasio	\$ 34.25
Ted Rodman - General	\$ 102.75
Glenn Gavan - General	\$ 280.50

Mr. Hughes made the motion to approve the vouchers. Motion seconded by Ms. Gold. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

In a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alfia Schemm
Board Secretary
2/8/21