

**Borough of Watchung
Planning Board Meeting
August 16th, 2011**

Minutes

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Speeney called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Salute to the flag. The Chair called for a roll call. Present at the call of the roll were: Speeney (X) Boyd (X) Havas (X) Haveson (X) Ellis (A) Pennett (A) Schaefer (X) Mobus (X) Pote (A) Beck-Clemens (X) Mrs. Pennett arrived at 7:33

Chairman Speeney indicated there was a quorum to conduct business. The Chair stated that this meeting was being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 of the open public meetings law and proper notification of this meeting has been made.

Chairman Speeney asked for an approval to waive the reading of the minutes of April 12th, 2011 and to approve as published. That motion was made by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Havas. Mrs. Beck-Clemens asked for a correction to the minutes of April 12th, showing Mayor Mobus present at the call of the roll. The motion was amended to show that correction. The Chair called for a voice vote which was unanimously in favor. The minutes were approved.

The Chair said he would like to acknowledge the members of the public who were present. Both Alexa Speeney of Park Place and her Dad, Douglas Speeney were present.

An explanation on electronic communication was presented by board Attorney Frank Linnus, who explained to the board the laws of electronic communication and how that applied to the open public meetings act. The Clerk supplied a copy of the Open Public Meetings Act for the board members to read. Mr. Linnus explained that any gathering attended by or open to with the intent to discuss or act on the public business of that body. He explained that email on public business is indeed a public document which could be O.P.R.A.'d. That includes both municipal and private email correspondence.

The Chair suggested that the board send a resolution off the legislature asking them to work this issue at the legislative level. Mrs. Beck-Clemens suggested that all committees and boards be notified as to this issue. Mr. Linnus said that

the town attorney should be contacted regarding doing that. The Chair said that he would hope that board members give this subject some further thought and think about creating a resolution to send to the legislature to take action, if not this night, at some point in the future.

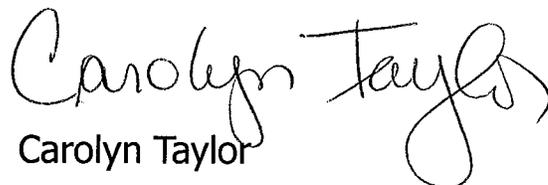
The Chair thanked Mr. Linnus and the Clerk for their input.

The Chair said he attended the August 10th special meeting of Mayor and Council regarding the sidewalk issue. He said that the Council could go with a few scenarios. He said that one way the council could go is to recommend to the County to put the sidewalk beds on the south side of Mountain Blvd., another would be to put the sidewalk beds on the north side of Mountain Blvd., and the third no sidewalks beds at all. The Chair said that he would like the Planning Board to consider what is in the best interest of the residents of Watchung. Mayor Mobus said that from the beginning, he wanted to clarify that the County was never going to put in sidewalks, only the sidewalk beds. The cost for the actual sidewalks would have to be paid for by the Borough at \$249,000.00. The Chair said that he felt the Borough should go with the sidewalk base so that in the future if they decided to install the sidewalks, the base work would benefit the Borough. Mr. Herits said that for the sidewalks to go on the north side, to take care of the storm water issues, it would boost the cost to almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars. Mr. Boyd felt that to boost the cost to that amount, would be a waste of the taxpayers money.

The Chair asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Douglas Speeney of Park Place came to the microphone and voiced an opinion that he liked the idea that board members be given a borough email so that personal computers cannot be subpoenaed. He said that he also was in favor of sidewalks placed on the north side of Mountain Blvd.

The Chair adjourned the meeting until the net meeting of September 20th, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,


Carolyn Taylor