

**Borough of Watchung
Planning Board Meeting
November 15th , 2016**

Minutes

Chairwoman Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Salute to the flag. The Chair called for a roll call. Present at the call of the roll were:

Schaefer (X) Boyd (X) Desnoyers (X) Ellis (X) Haveson (X) Joren (X) Pennett (X)
Pote (A) Speeney (X) Spingler(X) D'Annunzio (X)
Linnus (X) Herits (X)

Chairwoman Schaefer indicated that there was a quorum to conduct business and stated that this meeting was being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 of the Open Public Meetings Act and proper notification of this meeting has been made.

Chairwoman Schaefer sought a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of July 2016. The motion was moved, seconded and approved on a voice vote. Mr. D'Annunzio did not vote. The Chair welcomed new board member, Mr. Chris D'Annunzio as our second alternate.

The Seritage application was adjourned due to the applicant not giving proper notice. Mr. Herits asked that the Board look carefully at the professional reports and be prepared for the next meeting. The Chair made a motion to adjourn the Seritage Application PB16-02 & PB16-03 until our January 17th, 2017 meeting. The motion was moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote. Mr. Herits reminded everyone of the importance of the receiving the county's report prior to January's meeting.

Discussion: Somerset County Complete Streets: Madame Chair asked Mr. Haveson to explain what complete streets is and to share what was discussed at the workshop he attended. "Complete streets is a safety program for bicycles and pedestrians. Somerville and Westfield have such intersections. Bike paths along Mountain Blvd, Valley Rd, and Somerset St. make sense." Mr. Haveson thought this would be a great opportunity for Watchung, as we do have a population that rides bikes and walks. It was his understanding that the county pays for this through grants. Mrs. Pennett asked for clarification because Mr. Haveson mentioned Watchung Square Mall and Sears. Mr. Haveson clarified, "you cannot have a bike path on a divided highway, but the County will contribute to make the crosswalks safe." Madam Chair commented that she thought the state was already handling the sidewalks. "Yes, but they're not doing the intersections and we will need them done for the Sears project." The Chair asked Mr. Ellis how to proceed if we want to bring them in. Mr. Ellis suggested to invite the speaker, Linda Repeke, from the Complete Streets workshop to one of our meetings. Mr. Herits added that the Council approved the borough's application for a TAP (Transportation Alternative Projects) grant. The borough submitted a plan to repave the asphalt sidewalk on the south side of Valley Rd. to Bayberry Lane and to add bicycle lanes on Mountain Blvd. going into Warren. Mr. Haveson asked Mr. Herits if that was considered part of complete streets program and Mr. Herits said yes we have support from the county. Mr. Speeney related further that the county has completed the PGIA study (Priority Growth Investment Area) and the Route 22 Corridor study and had presented it to us. They have not yet presented the LPGIA (local). The area near the circle is the local. Mr. D'Annunzio asked if Seritage's proposal conflicts with the Route 22 Corridor study. Madame Chair Schaefer explained that the applicant would need to seek the county's input. Mr.

Speeney added that the county has new data in terms of planning, traffic, and zoning because they just recently studied it. Mr. Linnus said that Terrill Rd. is a county road, therefore the county has jurisdiction over it.

Hearing no further discussion, the Chair made a motion to adjourn the December 20th meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryann Amiano
Planning Board Clerk