

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
PLANNING BOARD**
TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN

**Reorganizational & Regular Meeting
January 21, 2020**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
Adopted February 18, 2020**

Chairwoman Schaefer called the Reorganizational and Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Mr. Ellis, Ms. Pennett, Mayor Balla, Mr. Speeney, Mr. Pote and Ms. Spingler. Councilman Martino and Mr. Baldassarre arrived at 7:30 pm. Also present were Francis P. Linnus, Esq., Board Attorney, Mr. Thomas Herits, Board Engineer and Theresa Snyder, Board Clerk. There were 2 members from the public present.

Chairwomen 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 had been made. She then led the flag salute to the American flag, and the Board members identified themselves for the record.

**REORGANIZATION FOR 2020
Election of Officers**

Chairperson

On motion by Mr. Speeney, seconded by Mr. Ellis, the election of Tracee Schaefer to Chairwoman was accepted and based on the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Spingler, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Pennett, Mayor Balla,
Mr. Speeney, Mr. Pote and Chairwoman Schaefer

Nays:

Not Eligible:

Abstain:

Absent: Mr. Fiorilla

Vice-Chairperson

On motion by Ms. Spingler, seconded by Madam Chair, the election of Donald Speeney to Vice-Chairman was accepted and based on the following roll call vote:

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PLANNING BOARD

TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Spingler, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Pennett, Mayor Balla,
Mr. Speeney, Mr. Pote and Chairwoman Schaefer

Nays:

Not Eligible:

Abstain:

Absent: Mr. Fiorilla

Secretary

On motion by Mr. Speeney, seconded by Madam Chair, the election of Ellen Spingler to Secretary was accepted and based on the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Spingler, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Pennett, Mayor Balla,
Mr. Speeney, Mr. Pote and Chairwoman Schaefer

Nays:

Not Eligible:

Abstain:

Absent: Mr. Fiorilla

OATH OF OFFICE

Councilman Pete Martino, Class III, was sworn in for a one year term ending December 31, 2020.

Andrew Baldasarre, Alternate #1, Class IV, was sworn in for a 2 year term ending December 31, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution PB 20-R1

Calendar of Regular Meetings

On motion by Chairwoman Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Speeney, the calendar of regular meeting dates for 2020 was accepted and carried on voice votes.

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PLANNING BOARD

TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN

Resolution PB 20-R2

Adoption of By-Laws

On motion by Chairwoman Schaefer, seconded by Ms. Pennett, the Board By-Laws for 2020 was accepted and carried on voice votes.

Resolution PB 20-R3

Designation of Official Newspapers

On motion by Chairwoman Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Pote, the official newspapers for 2020 were accepted and carried on voice votes.

Resolution PB 20-R4

Appointment of Board Professionals

On motion by Chairwoman Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Pote, the appointment of professionals for 2020 was accepted and carried on voice votes.

Tom Herits was sworn in to give testimony for the calendar year of 2020.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Site Plan and Sub-division

Committee:

Tracee Schaefer
Donald Speeney
Ellen Spingler
Andrew Baldasarre

Ordinance Committee:

Tracee Schaefer
Donald Speeney
Pete Martino
Francis P. Linnus, Esq.

County Planning Liason:

Tracee Schaefer
Donald Speeney
Al Ellis
Mayor Keith Balla

Environmental Committee:

Karen Pennett

Finance Committee:

Tracee Schaefer
Theresa Snyder

Master Plan Committee:

Tracee Schaefer
Don Speeney
Steve Pote

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PLANNING BOARD

TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN

CASE NO.: PB 19-01; BONNIE BURN/BNE
BONNIE BURN ROAD REDEVELOPMENT
BLOCK: 7402/7403 LOT: 19.01 19.02 5 & 10
BBRA Zone

Chairwoman Schaefer announced that the above referenced application was being carried without further notice to a special meeting date of January 29, 2020.

CASE NO.: PB 19-02; THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
100 UNION AVENUE
BLOCK: 7801 LOT: 1
BB ZONE

Ms. Diane Stolbach represented The Learning Experience. She requested that the above referenced application be carried without further notice to the February 18, 2020 regular meeting. The applicant was still in the process of gathering information to answer the Board's questions from the meeting on December 17th. They were also waiting for a decision from DEP. They gave the Board an extension to act for an additional 120 days. The expiration date is June 27, 2020.

Chairwoman Schaefer informed Ms. Stolbach that due to the adjournment, the application would be placed second to the Bonnie Burn application on the February 18th Agenda.

DISCUSSION

Chairwoman Schaefer informed the Board of a request from the public to begin video-taping meetings. There was a short discussion weighing the differences of video-taping versus live streaming.

The Board approved the videotaping of meetings based on the following roll call vote:

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PLANNING BOARD

TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Spingler, Mr. Ellis, Councilman Martino,
Ms. Pennett, Mayor Balla, Mr. Speeney, Mr. Pote,
Mr. Baldasarre and Chairwoman Schaefer

Nays:

Not Eligible:

Abstain:

Absent: Mr. Fiorilla

Mr. Linnus discussed the involvement of board members with social media. He explained that the Borough Council should adopt a social media policy. He encouraged board members that they have a loyalty and duty to the Planning Board.

Chairwoman Schaefer opined that the Planning Board was none political. She said it was very important for Board members not to engage in social media.

The meeting was opened to the public. With there being no comments from the public, the public portion was closed.

Mr. Ellis recommended that Mark Healey look at the plans for the library. He opined that it would be a positive step for the Borough.

Mr. Speeney suggested the site plan committee look at the library plans.

ADJOURN

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Snyder
Board Clerk