

**PLANNING BOARD  
MINUTES**

**June 12, 2017**

On the above date at the Port Republic City Hall, 143 Main Street, Port Republic, New Jersey, Planning Board Chairman Barry Horas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and made a statement in compliance with Sunshine Law.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Kevin Cain, Mayor Gary Giberson, Gail Haviland, Robert Haviland, Brad Hooper, Barry Horas, and Council Representative Donna Riegel  
Board Secretary Vicki Cantell  
Board Attorney: Mike Fitzgerald

It was noted that Virginia Laird had submitted her resignation. Mayor Giberson is working on getting replacement for her and John. Members were asked for suggestions and some were submitted.

**Minutes** –On the motion of Mrs. Haviland, second of Mayor Giberson. and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of March 13, 2017 with the correction noted above.

**City Council Report** – Mrs. Reigel reminded everyone that Port Day is this Saturday and Mrs. Bugdon will make the weather call by 10 am should it rain. The City is in the process of updating its personnel policies

Mayor Giberson reported that the proposed replacement 610 bridge has not been finalized but would be all concrete, about 35 feet wide (sidewalks & bike trails included) but would keep the same height and configuration to keep the approaches the same. There was some discussion about the appropriateness of such a large bridge. On the motion of Mrs. Reigel, second of Mr. Haviland and carried unanimously to have the secretary call County Planning to arrange a meeting before the County finalizes plans.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tiny Houses** – The Mayor expressed his concerns regarding the increasing popularity of small houses and if they could impact Port. Attorney Fitzgerald has drafted and suggested that the Campground ordinance be tightened to include Tiny Houses of wheels recognizing them as any other trailer and thereby restricting them to the same regulations. He further stated that should anyone want to place one permanently on a lot he would have to meet all the same building codes as a permanent home. On the motion of Mr. Haviland, second of Mrs. Haviland and carried unanimously to recommend to City Council to pass the new ordinance as written.

**FEMA Grants** – Information has been received regarding availability of FEMA grants to home owners to raise their homes. The information will be place on file in the Clerk's office should any residents be interested.

**Motor Cross** – Galloway Township is considering including a gravel pit that could then be turned into a motor cross site in its redevelopment plan. The site would be sandwiched between the Parkway, Port's gravel pit, and our Green Acres property. The bike group JORBA that's uses and maintains the Green Acres bike trails learned of and attended a Galloway Planning meeting to ensure protection of the trails. It was learned that a company has submitted escrow for the review of the proposal which would include night riding, a snack bar and cycles rentals. Concerns were raised regarding noise and the lights at night, Mayor Giberson has been in contact with the Galloway Mayor and was informed that it is still in the consideration phase and that he would be informed on any movement on this. As the City and Board's attorneys as well as our planner also represent Galloway should there be a need for legal action they would have a conflict and an outside source would need to be found. It was decided that at this point it a close watch rather than action was appropriate.

**County Planning** has requested confirmation of their information regarding Port's zoning. On the motion of Mayor Giberson, second of Mrs. Reigel and carried unanimously to have Doran Engineering confirm information and notify County of results.

**OLD BUSINESS** - none

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Justin Benton** pf 240 Sooy's Landing Road appeared to request instruction from the Board regarding an addition on his residence. He would like to expand an their mechanical room that would not exceed the width of the existing home but there is a dirt access road approximately 21½ feet from the house. He asked if he would need a variance due to set-back issues. After some discussion, it was noted that the road in question had been vacated so the property reverts back to the home owners so the property line rather than the edge of the road would be used.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Block 30, Lot 3 – Notice received that they have applied to DEP for permits for maintenance of existing structures, additions to same, docks and piers. No action needed by Board.

**BILLS** – On the motion of Mr. Haviland, second of Mrs. Reigel and carried by unanimously to pay the secretary.

**ADJOURNMENT** – On the motion of Mrs. Reigel, second of Mr. Haviland and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Vicki L. Cantell  
Board Secretary