

MINUTES

DRAFT

OCTOBER 2, 2012

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Chairman, Dr. Behr, called the meeting to order at 8:01 P.M.

He then read the following statement:

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting a copy of the public meeting dates on the municipal bulletin board, by sending a copy to the Courier News and Echoes Sentinel and by filing a copy with the Municipal Clerk, all in January, 2012.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

On a call of the roll the following were present:

E. Thomas Behr, Chairman
Christopher Collins, Member
Edwin F. Gerecht, Jr., Member
Felix Ruiz, Member

Michael Pesce, 1st Alternate
Richard Keegan, 2nd Alternate

Dawn Wolfe, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Excused: Sandi Raimer, Vice Chairman
John Fagnoli, Member
Maureen Malloy, Member

Barry Hoffman, Bd. Engineer
Thomas Lemanowicz, Bd. Engineer
Kevin O'Brien, Twp. Planner

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DISCUSSION

Dr. Behr said that over the summer a Planning Board and Board of Adjustment subcommittee worked with Mrs. Wolfe to review the current application and professional review escrow fees. He said that the subcommittee consisted of Mrs. Raimer, Mr. Pesce representing the Board of Adjustment and Dr. Rae and Mr. Arentowicz representing the Planning Board. He said that they did a wonderful job, it was desperately needed, and he wished to express his thanks to them for their work.

Dr. Behr said that he felt that we need to improve the collaboration/coordination between the two Boards and the Township Committee because there are some significant areas of overlap between all three agencies where the Township is best served if they are working together. He said that he was happy to announce that a proposal has been made for a Board of Adjustment/ Planning Board/Township Committee Coordination Committee. He said that the Committee will meet on a monthly basis on dates that will be amenable to the various schedules of the members. He said that from the Board of Adjustment he asked Mr. Collins to join him in serving on the Committee. He was not sure yet who the Planning Board representatives will be and he said that it was his understanding that Mr. Roshto and one member of the Township Committee will also be a part of the Committee. He said that he has had e-mail exchanges with Planning Board

Chairman Connor and Mr. Roshto and was very encouraged at the progress this is making.

He said that he was asked to bring this matter before the Board of Adjustment to see if the members are willing to support this effort.

Mr. Keegan asked if the meetings will be open to the public.

Dr. Behr replied that the Sunshine Law says that advisory meetings such as this do not need to be open to the public and, typically, they are not because it allows the group to be able to discuss complex or sensitive issues in a very frank manner. However, he said that a committee like this when it is solely advisory, may not make any decisions of any kind whatsoever – it really is an advisory committee. He said that whatever actions would come out of the Committee would be taken to the appropriate agency which might be the Township Committee on some issues, or the Board of Adjustment or Planning Board. He said that the idea was to have time focused productive discussions as an advisory committee but recognize that any matter that any matter that could actually be acted on would have to be brought into a properly noticed public hearing where the public would have ample opportunity to voice their comments and ask questions. He said that one of the members (which he believed to be Dr. Rae) has suggested that the Committee might conduct two or three open meetings during the course of the year where the public *would* be invited and the members would have a chance to interact with the public.

Mr. Pesce made a motion to support the Committee and endorse Dr. Behr and Mr. Collins as the Board of Adjustment's initial embraceries. Mr. Gerecht seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Behr requested a motion for the Board of Adjustment to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Gerecht made a motion to enter executive session at 8:07 P.M. which was seconded by Mr. Collins.

The Board re-entered public session at 8:55 P.M.

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Dr. Behr said that the issue that the Board is now considering is using the next Board of Adjustment meeting (October 16, 2012) to have a collaborative meeting with the Board's consultants to come up with a plan to significantly lower the costs to applicants when they appear before the Board of Adjustment. He said that he is planning to invite representatives of the Township Committee and the Planning Board. He asked for a motion from the Board.

Mr. Pesce made such motion which was seconded by Mr. Collins. All members present were in favor.

Dr. Behr said that he would circulate an e-mail within the next two days on what his thoughts on the agenda might be. He asked the Board members to please get back to him on any ideas or recommendations concerning the agenda so that it can be locked in for October 16th.

There being no further business or members of the public present, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

DAWN V. WOLFE
Planning & Zoning Administrator

