

**Borough of Watchung
Planning Board Meeting
February 19th, 2008
Minutes**

Chairman Speeney called the meeting to order at 7:34p.m. and stated that notice of this meeting had been posted at Borough Hall, filed with the Borough Clerk and given in the way of notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, the Reporter and Star Ledger in conformance with the N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

Present at the call of the roll were:

Speeney [X] Boyd [X] Havas [X] Haveson [X] Addario [X]

Pennett [X] Schaefer [A] Spratford [A] Ellis [X] Pote [A]

Also present were Board Attorney Frank Linnus, and Board Engineer Tom Herits.

Chairman Speeney asked for a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the meeting of January 15th, 2008. That motion was made by Mayor Ellis, and seconded by Mr. Havas. Hearing no discussion, the Chair asked for a voice vote approval. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Speeney asked the Mayor and Jim Boyd to speak about the COAH meeting they attended. The Mayor stated that there were many objections to the proposed third round rules. A discussion ensued about COAH and the possibility of eventual tax hikes due to the proposed new rules. Chairman Speeney asked for a point of contact among the leadership for objecting to these new rules. Mayor Ellis said yes, that if the Planning Board wanted to make any comments, they could send them in to COAH for review, and they would be entered into the record. It was decided that a sub committee would be formed to compose a document with comments or objections. Peter Havas will chair that sub committee. Also on the sub committee is Jim Boyd, Tony Addario, and Alan Haveson. The Mayor said that his final question was what happened to the 250

Municipalities that haven't participated in this process. He said that basically 300 Municipalities have stepped forward to try and make this work. Chairman Speeney asked the group to have a recommendation to this Planning Board so that they can vote on a resolution to forward on to COAH. The subcommittee set up a date to meet on the 26th of February. Mr. Linnus was asked to review the document and help draft the resolution.

Chairman Speeney called for review of Ordinance OR:08-03 entitled "Detached Accessory Structures" of the revised general ordinance of the Borough of Watchung. Jim Boyd asked how this change came about. Mayor Ellis said that without this particular wording, that a swimming pool or a jungle gym could be put in a front yard of a residence. A lengthy discussion ensued and The Chair asked for a motion to recommend OR:08-03 as presented with no changes. That motion was made by Jim Boyd, seconded by Alan Haveson and a unanimous voice vote approved the motion. Chairman Speeney said that there would be a memorializing resolution next month on this action. In the meantime, Carolyn Taylor is to draft a memo to the Council indicating the Board's unanimous support of the ordinance as drafted by the Council.

Chairman Speeney asked for a motion to approve the vouchers. Alan Haveson made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Karen Pennett. The Chair asked for a roll call vote;

Roll Call

Speeney [X] Boyd [X] Havas [X] Haveson [X] Addario [X]

Pennett [X] Ellis [X]

Havas read: PB08-R8 Resolution to go into Executive Session. The nature of the executive session was litigation re: Richie et all v. Borough of Watchung et al. At this point the tape was turned off, and the Board went into executive session at 8:17PM.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:36PM. The Chair asked for a motion to have the Board attorney defend the Board's position

relative to the matter in this litigation. Mr. Havas made that motion, seconded by Mr. Addario.

Hearing no discussion, the Chair asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call

Speeney [X] Boyd [X] Havas [X] Haveson [X] Addario [X]

Pennett [X] Ellis [X]

The motion carried.

Chairman Speeney asked the Mayor where the adoption of the new LDO currently stood. Mayor Ellis said that the Council is getting very close. The Chair said when a public hearing takes place, he would like to see members of the Planning Board in attendance if the Mayor and Council need that support. Mayor Ellis said that the Borough's Center Designation status is getting close to expiring, and Tom Herits said that they are currently working on getting everything in order and taking care of it. The Mayor and Chairman Speeney thanked Mr. Herits for his efforts in this regard.

Chairman Speeney asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mayor Ellis, seconded by Mr. Addario, and approved unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:43PM until the next meeting of March 18th, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Taylor
Carolyn Taylor
Planning Board Clerk