

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday May 21, 2014

Present: Ray Seigfried, Ron Meick, Cynthia Dewick, Larry Strange and Dan McNeil

Absent: Sally Sharp

Guest Appearance: John Cartier, New Castle County Representative for the Village Of Arden

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:05 PM

The minutes for the March and April meetings were reviewed. After agreeing to several minor edits in both the March and April minutes, a motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

The topics addressed in this meeting include: (1) The Village Authorization to the County/State/Federal authorities for participating in F.E.M.A.; (2) Update on the official filings related to the Village's Vacant Housing Ordinance; (3) Follow-up on the Conflict of Interest Policy and Freedom of Information Act (F.O.I.A.); and (4) Miscellaneous

The individual topics are addressed as follows.

F.E.M.A. Resolution

Ray, with the assistance of Pat Toman of Ardentown, continues to work with John Cartier (Arden's County Representative) and Dave Carpenter (County's FEMA Specialist) in order to complete and submit a Village Resolution requesting official induction into the F.E.M.A. program administered through the federal government.

Dave Carpenter through John Cartier reported that the Village of Arden must still officially adopt New Castle County's Flood Plan Ordinance in order to proceed with its official induction into the F.E.M.A. program. Ray requested the specific documentation requirements from John Cartier as soon as possible.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Ray indicated that the authorization identifying those leaseholds in violation of this ordinance was submitted to the Village's Chairman (Danny Schweers) for signature, notarization and official filing with the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds. Ray indicated that the document was being reviewed and will likely be filed shortly.

Approximately 1.5+/- years have passed since New Castle County officials reported that 2101 Harvey Road was scheduled for demolition as it was deemed uninhabitable and dangerous. To date, the County has taken no apparent action and the severely deteriorated improvements continue to represent an eyesore to the surrounding homes. John Cartier agreed to research this problem with N.C.C. officials and will report back as soon as possible.

Conflict of Interest Policy - The Freedom of Information Act (F.O.I.A.) and local governmental compliance

Ray indicated that the two competing policies on Conflict Of Interest were submitted to the Village's Attorney for legal review and comment in late March/early April. As you may recall, Ray initially prepared a policy which was countered with a policy prepared by Cecilia Vore, Registration Committee Chair.

Ray indicated that a final policy has been prepared subsequent to receiving feedback from the Village's Attorney. The C.P.C. reviewed this policy and several ideas were presented for sharpening it's focus. Ray envisions that this policy will be included within an overall policy addressing F.O.I.A. and disputes between committees. A formal administrative procedure must still be devised, however, for equitably handling a dispute. Ray is planning on presenting this proposal to the upcoming June 2014 Advisory Committee Meeting.

Miscellaneous

The last two unscheduled topics were presented by (1) John Cartier and (2) Larry Strange.

- (1) John Cartier presented a brief overview of current development activities on Philadelphia Pike in Claymont.

C.P.C Minutes – May 2014 Meeting

Page 2

- (2) Larry Strange questioned the current process for deciding whether a prospective job candidate is hired as an employee of the Village or as a private vendor under a contract with the Village. Recent activities at the B.W.C.C. lead Larry to question the current approval process.

Larry briefly summarized the additional related costs/responsibilities in hiring an employee (Fed & State Withholding, Disability, Workman's Compensation, et al) versus the relatively straightforward cost of a contract vendor. The direct and indirect costs in hiring a Village employee versus a contract vendor can be in the range of 25% more expensive to the Village. As such, Larry feels that the current process needs to be more closely scrutinized with a clear approval process established for the protection of the Village.

The C.P.C. meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.