

October 12, 2009 Meeting Summary

Members present: Chair Rachel Verno, Gloria Rabinowitz, Marlene Haresign, Joe Krajewski, Paul Griffin, Bill Berkoski, Barry Levy and Mary Schader

Non-members present: Frank Keenan, Susan Keenan, Steven Gorman, Alex Gregor, Al Kistler, Corey Bezerman, Jim Malone, Councilman Chris Nuzzi, Jennifer Landes (EH Star)

ALEX GREGOR, CANDIDATE FOR HWY SUPERINTENDENT:

Alex told us about his platform and addressed our concerns regarding storm runoff, specifically in Mill Pond. He discussed the need to have homeowners and the farming community work in conjunction with the Town to try to solve some of the runoff problems especially on Deerfield Rd. The issue of leaf pick up was raised and how this program has posed problems for the Town and the residents in terms of how long it takes and how much it costs. Councilman Chris Nuzzi commented that it might make sense to privatize leaf pickup and that is something Alex would consider if elected and if it proved to be financially beneficial to the Town. It was also noted that Water Mill is at the end of the leaf pickup schedule and that the pickup sometimes doesn't happen until after the first snow fall. It was suggested that perhaps the Town could alternate the schedule each year. There was discussion from Chris about moving waste and storm management into another area and Alex disagreed.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO CHANGE TERM LIMITS FOR PLANNING AND ZBA BOARDS AND REDUCING MEMBERS ON THE ZBA:

Councilman Nuzzi discussed his resolution. The members of the CAC seem to agree with the concept of reducing the terms from 7 to 4 years. Additional discussion regarding the concerns some members have in reducing the number of members on the ZBA. One member thought this was a good idea in terms of cutting costs while others felt the savings were not worth leaving these decisions up to only 5 members. Also discussed was concern about "professionalizing" and Chris explained that some other Town Board members shared this concern and that language was going to be changed. Since the CAC meeting, two versions of the resolution were proposed reducing the terms from 7 to 5 year or from 7 to 4. In addition, the resolution reducing the number of ZBA members from 7 to 5 seems to have been taken off the table.

PROPOSED TOWN LIGHTING LAW:

The majority of the CAC members are in favor of this law and amortization. One member is concerned about the potential for an enormous financial burden for pre existing businesses and residences to comply with new guidelines and feels the nuisance clause would sufficiently address any homes or businesses that were creating a burden on neighbors. Since the CAC meeting, at the October 27th Town Board hearing, amortization is off the table but a Nuisance Abatement clause has been added. Next hearing on Nov 10th.

OMNIPOINT CELL TOWER PROPOSED:

Discussed the most recent public hearing. The CAC would like the Planning Board to give this project a positive declaration and move forward with a full environmental impact study. In the meantime, it is apparent that Omnipoint is not willing to work with the Town and community to come up with any alternatives so a decision needs to be made about how to proceed. A writing letter campaign has been suggested in an attempt to get the local paper more involved. The CAC will draft a letter.