

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
STONE HARBOR PLANNING BOARD

January 13, 2014

4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hand, who stated that all requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act of 1975” had been met.

ROLL CALL:

Planning Members Present

Thomas Hand
Perry Conte
Mayor Suzanne Walters
Wayne Conrad
Jill Gougher
Robert D. Bickford, Jr.
Joselyn O. Rich

Board Solicitor

Andrew Catanese

Board Secretary

Patricia H. Wagner

Zoning Officer

Joanne Mascia

Planning Members Absent

Julian Miraglia, Alternate

Nomination for 2014 Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

Nomination by Mr. Conte and seconded by Mr. Conrad to appoint Thomas Hand as Board Chairman. Motion to close the nominations by Mayor Walters and seconded by Mrs. Rich.

Affirmative votes: Mr. Hand, Mayor Walters, Mr. Conte, Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Gougher, Mrs. Rich and Mr. Bickford.

Nomination by Mr. Conte and seconded by Mrs. Gougher to appoint Wayne Conrad as Vice Chairman. Motion to close nominations by Mayor Walters and seconded by Mr. Hand.

Affirmative votes: Mr. Hand, Mayor Walters, Mr. Conte, Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Gougher, Mrs. Rich and Mr. Bickford.

Approval of Professional Services Contract Board Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Bickford and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve Professional Services Contract for Andrew Catanese, Board Solicitor, for the year 2014.

Affirmative votes: Mr. Hand, Mayor Walters, Mr. Conte, Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Gougher, Mrs. Rich and Mr. Bickford.

Approve Resolution 2014-001 Appoint Board Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Conte and seconded by Mrs. Rich to appoint Andrew Catanese as Board Solicitor.

Affirmative votes: Mr. Hand, Mayor Walters, Mr. Conte, Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Gougher, Mrs. Rich and Mr. Bickford.

Professional Planners

Mrs. Gougher is to contact the firm of Heyer Gruel & Associates for the 2014 hourly rate & updated contract proposal. The contract will be discussed & possibly be put forth for Planning Board approval at the February 10, 2014 meeting.

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2014 Budget Appropriations

Mrs. Gougher stated that as of today's date, the amount requested in November by the Planning Board has not yet been changed. Mrs. Gougher will report on the budget status at the February 10, 2014 meeting.

Public Comment

No one spoke. Public Session Closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Board of Adjustment 2013 Annual Report

At the request of Mr. Conte the Planning Board Secretary will contact the ZBA Secretary for the 2013 ZBA Annual Report listing all variance applications that were heard along with the ZBA Board's decision to deny or approve the variance requests. The report will then be forward to all Planning Board members for their review.

Planning & Zoning Board Consolidation

Mayor Walters reported that the current Borough Council is interested in consolidating the two separate boards into one nine member board along with four alternates. The Borough Council, by enacting a new ordinance, could give the powers and duties of the Zoning Board (quasi judicial) to the Planning Board (legislative planning) and then dissolve the current Zoning Board of Adjustment. If at any time the Borough wanted to again have two separate Boards, they would have to craft a new ordinance which would then have to be put out to a referendum vote. Mr. Catanese stated the Class I (Mayor) and Class III member (Council Representative) would remain on the Planning Board but they would not be able to vote on any D Variance applications. A new meeting schedule can be introduced by the new Board, possibly ending the current ZBA Friday night meetings.

Mayor Walters will advise the current Chairman of the Zoning Board of the Borough Council's intention and also what has been discussed at tonight's Planning Board meeting. She will report on this topic at the February 2014 Planning Board meeting.

Borough Solicitor Michael Donohue along with Board Solicitor Andrew Catanese will continue to research the process of consolidating both Boards.

Valet Parking Initiative

Mr. Hand asked for a Borough Council update. Mrs. Gougher reported that it was brought to the attention of the Administration & Finance Committee but no detailed discussions have taken place. Mrs. Gougher will add this topic to the A&F meeting scheduled for January 15, 2014.

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97th Street Parking Lots

Mr. Conte asked if the Borough Engineers have reviewed the feasibility of having these lots re-striped or the combined Borough/Reeds parking lots. Mrs. Gougher reported that Remington Vernick engineers have not specifically looked at those particular lots but they have been authorized to look at all borough owned parking lots for possible upgrades and rehabilitations.

Generators in Set Back Areas

The Board has again been asked to review the possibility of allowing generators in the set back areas. Mrs. Mascia will gather information on various types of generators & their specifications. This will be forwarded to the Board for their review & then be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business at hand Mr. Hand called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Mayor Walters and seconded by Mr. Hand. All members present voted in the affirmative.

APPROVED: February 10, 2014

ATTESTED: _____
Patricia H. Wagner, Secretary Stone Harbor Planning Board