



April 19, 2022 Town Council Reports

Council President Jeanne Kingsley

Planning Board:

Next meeting tomorrow evening at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The link for the meeting can be found on the township website. The Board will hear an application for a proposed minor subdivision at 162 Kline Blvd, Block 1902 lot 1. The existing parcel would be subdivided to create two new lots. The existing house would be razed and two new homes constructed. The proposal would require bulk variance relief.

Downtown Beautification Committee:

The committee met on April 12th and discussed the following:

- The Fill-a-Basket program, which enables us to plant flowers to the hanging flowerpots on Springfield Avenue, is fully sponsored – we are actually oversold. The Mea family is moving its sponsorship of 3 baskets to the Winter season so we can accommodate everyone who wanted to support the community in this way. A big thank you to all the businesses and neighborhood groups who are sponsoring, and the BHBC for partnering with us to promote this popular program. The flowers will be planted by Hall's and installed by DPW this May.
- The next opportunity to help make Berkeley Heights bloom this spring and summer is the Adopt-a-Sign program. Residents, Neighborhoods, Scout Troops, and businesses can “adopt” one of 20 Welcome and Park signs in town. That means planting flowers and maintaining the beds from May through early fall. It's a fun and flexible program that allows people to volunteer on a schedule that suits them best. Interested? Email us at DBC@bhtwp.com

Communication Committee:

Met last evening, the focus of the meeting was on the website upgrade. The survey to gather resident input on the current website will be available until this Friday April 22nd so if you have not taken the survey yet, please do – we want to hear from you!

The committee would like to use the website to prepare the e newsletter to put the technology that we have in place to better use. A subgroup of the committee is going to work on this over the next few months with the goal of creating a streamlined, consistent, timely newsletter.

The committee discussed how best to be involved in the block party on June 5th and suggested having a table for residents interested in getting involved in our town by providing information on the various committees, commissions and boards and how a resident can volunteer. We would

like to ask each council member to line up their committees that they serve on to provide a one page information sheet about their committee and also to help staff the table on June 5th.

Memorial Day Parade:

It is back, after 2 years – so please mark your calendar for Monday May 30th at 9:30 am, the parade will be led by members of the VFW post #6259. The parade starts on Snyder Ave, heads west down Springfield Ave, and south on Plainfield Ave ending at Veterans Memorial Park. Any organized group within the township that is interested in marching alongside our veterans please reach out to the Recreation Department at 464-0550, Ext. 11.

Council Vice President Manny Couto

Peppertown Park Committee:

The committee has not met as it is waiting for the updated drainage plans.

Warren Development:

I attended the final meeting of the Warren Planning Board regarding the K Hovanian 192 unit project on the corner of Emerson Lane and Hillcrest on April 11th. The architect, landscape architect, and engineer for KHov all provided testimony regarding the building specifics for the development. The attorney for KHov then summarized the hearings as follows: Warren entered into the settlement agreement by adopting a housing element plan, by identifying the site and site suitability section of the element, by rezoning and adopting the zoning ordinance. He said they feel the benefits are clear, the project will make a major contribution to Warren's affordable housing obligation, which ultimately reduces future development. This is a higher set aside than many towns. These are 50 year deed restrictions rather than 30 year. The project provides safe, affordable dwellings to very low, low and moderate households. The project has been designed in close collaboration with the township professionals and it has been re-designed three or four times, based upon input from the Warren Planning Board. The architecture has been greatly enhanced. He asked the board to approve this application. Several Warren residents spoke regarding their objection to the project, noting concerns about traffic on both Emerson and Hillcrest and noted the lack of sidewalks along Emerson. The Board will vote on this application at their April 25th meeting.

Councilwoman Gentiana Brahimaj

No official committee report.

Councilman Paul Donnelly

No official committee report.

Councilman John Foster

Historic Preservation Committee

Sub Committee for Fundraising met on March 31st.

The following fundraising ideas were discussed:

- Shop for the Cause to take place on April 21, 2022 with the help of Pam Yoss and her pop up store Lavendar and Sage. All proceeds from that day both in store and online will go to the Historical Committee.
- Discussion on getting Union County involved in putting up plaques for the Nike Missile Base in Watchung Stables as a historic site. Two other places in town to get plaques, Train station and the radar station that was located at GL.
- They will be looking to do a town wide garage sale on 9/17/22 and a possible 50/50 over the summer months at all of the events in town such as concerts and street fairs.
- Looking to get artist who painted the train station mural to do one of the Littel-Lord farmstead as a possible christmas gift in the shape of ornaments or other ideas.
- Next Subcommittee meeting on 4/28/22 at 6pm

Next full committee meeting via zoom is on April 7th at 7pm

Truth, Community Healing & Inclusion Committee

The committee had to postpone their March meeting due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 7 pm.

The Multi-Cultural Street Fair Sub-Committee met and discussed all of the many cultures in town and started working on how to get them represented for a street fair in late September or Early October. Date to be determined. There are many ideas on how to promote this and those who attended the meeting broke up into small groups to work on developing ideas to highlight and celebrate the various cultures within our community. One idea was a cricket match on Memorial Field. The next meeting is April 7th at 7 pm.

Councilman Jeff Varnerin

Board of Health:

The Board is still looking for an addition member. If interested, please see the Township website for a committee/board application. The next meeting will be in person May 18th at 7:30pm at the municipal building.

Truth, Community Healing & Inclusion Committee

A subcommittee met on April 7th to further discussion the plans for the multicultural street fair. We have representation for Asian, Indian, African/Caribbean, Ukrainian and Italian heritage. If others are interested in leading additional cultures, please contact the Mayor. The pillars are Food, Entertainment and Fun. September 25th is tentative date with an October 20th rain date.

Waste Water Treatment Plant(WWTP):

- Reviewed proposal from PSS (WWTP engineering consultant) to design and oversee a variety of fixes to the WWTP including permitting, flare and boilers.
- Met with residents from Garfield Ave on April 7th, along with Mayor Devanney to update them with progress to date on fixes at the WWTP.
- Reviewed RFQs received for WWTP engineer.

Municipal Complex:

We continue to work toward bringing in a third-party building envelop expert and hope to have a resolution soon to define the scope of services.