

MINUTES

PLANNING BOARD

TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY

Re-Organization Meeting Virtual Online Public Meeting

January 5, 2022

The Reorganization Meeting of the Planning Board was called to order at 7:30 PM by Regina Giardina via Zoom virtual meeting service.

Mrs. Giardina confirmed that the meeting was being held in conformance with all regulations of the SUNSHINE LAW and proper notice had been given to the Courier News; also, the Agenda had been posted on the Township website. The Agenda for the meeting, as well as instructions for public participation in the meeting, have also been posted on the Township website and sent to the newspaper of record. The Agenda items will not necessarily be heard in the order listed and the meeting will not continue significantly past 10:30 PM.

Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to the following members by William Robertson prior to the start of the meeting:

Joseph Graziano, Sr. -- Class I Mayor's Designee

Dan Cuocci – Township Official – 1-year term to end 12/31/2022

Jeanne Kingsley – Township Council Representative – 1-year term to end 12/31/2022

Alvaro Medeiros – Class IV Member / EC Representative – replacement of unexpired term to end 12/31/22

Richard Niceforo – Class IV Member – 4-year term to end 12/31/25

Kevin Hall – Class IV Member – replacement of unexpired term to end 12/31/24

Larry Cunningham – Class IV Member – replacement of unexpired term to end 12/31/23

Dan Monaco – Class IV Member – 4-year term to end 12/31/25

Margaret Illis – Alternate #1 – 2-year term to end 12/31/23

Roll Call:

Members present were Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hall, Mr. Graziano, Mr. Niceforo, Ms. Kingsley, Mr. Cuocci, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Monaco, Ms. Poage and Ms. Illis.

Reorganization

Election of Officers

Regina Giardina, Temporary Chairperson, opened the meeting for nominations for Board Chairman.

Craig Johnson was nominated as Chairman on the motion of Mr. Graziano, seconded by Mr. Niceforo. There were no other nominations and Mr. Johnson was elected Chairman by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Johnson opened the meeting for nominations for Board Vice Chairman. Kevin Hall was nominated as Vice Chairman on the motion of Ms. Kingsley, seconded by Mr. Graziano. There were no other nominations and Mr. Hall was elected Vice Chairman by unanimous roll call vote.

Designation and Adoption of Resolutions

The 2022 Meeting Schedule was approved, as amended, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Ms. Kingsley, seconded by Mr. Graziano, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Courier and The Star Ledger were designated as Official Newspapers, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Niceforo, seconded by Mr. Graziano, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Regina Giardina was designated to provide Secretarial Services, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Ms. Kingsley, seconded by Mr. Graziano, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Connie Valenti was designated as Planning Board Secretary, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Kingsley, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Connie Valenti was designated as Escrow Official, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Niceforo, seconded by Mr. Hall, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Bylaws of the Planning Board, as amended, were approved, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Niceforo, seconded by Ms. Kingsley, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Executive Session

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:46 pm for the discussion of the submissions received from potential attorneys and engineers for the positions of Board Attorney and Board Engineer. The Executive Session concluded at 7:50 pm.

The Board returned to Public Session at 7:50 p.m. on the motion of Ms. Kingsley, seconded by Mr. Niceforo, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

William Robertson of the firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis and Lehrer was designated as Board Attorney, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Niceforo, seconded by Mr. Hall, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The firm of Neglia Engineering was designated as Board Engineer, and the Resolution memorializing the same was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Niceforo, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Adoption of Minutes:

Regular Meeting December 1, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Kingsley, seconded by Mr. Niceforo, to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2021 as presented. The voice vote was unanimous.

Discussion

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the process for reviewing and approving the Master Plan. He advised that Mr. Hughes is in the process of incorporating the comments of the Board and the public and will present the Plan to the Board at a public hearing in February.

Discussion took place and it was recommended that the public be given sufficient notice of the date of the presentation and time for comment. It was noted that, as required, the Plan will be available for review by members of the public at least 10 days prior to the public hearing. Mr. Johnson will communicate the Board's comments to Mr. Hughes and report back to the Board.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Niceforo, seconded by Ms. Kingsley, to adjourn the meeting. The voice vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Regina Giardina, Secretary Pro-Tem