



Council Statements April 6th

Council President Jeanne Kingsley:

Planning Board meeting is Wednesday April 7th at 7:30, the only item on the agenda is the adoption of the resolution granting preliminary and final site plan approval for Berkeley Crossing Urban Renewal, L.L.C., 88 River Road, Block 502, Lot 1; 663 & 655 Springfield Avenue, Block 502, Lots 2, 4 & 5; 123 Passaic Avenue, Block 502, Lot 3 (HB-3 Zone) /the former Berkeley Florist site.

Downtown Beautification Committee:

Adopt A Sign Campaign - Ten families, community groups, and businesses have already signed up to "Adopt-a-Sign." This is a flexible, hands-on volunteer opportunity that results in our "Welcome to Berkeley Heights" and park signs being greener and more attractive to residents and visitors. Eight more sign locations are available for adoption as of today.

If you would like to participate in this hands-on, flexible volunteer opportunity please email the Downtown Beautification Committee at DBC@bhtwp.com to confirm availability of your sign and receive the program guidelines.

The next DBC meeting is scheduled for April 12th at 7 pm.

Communications Committee:

- The March/April Newsletter was published on April 2nd. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please sign up on the township Website.
- The committee is working with members from the Senior Task Force to prepare a Senior Survey to gather feedback on programming needs.
- The committee is working with the Historic Preservation Committee on a flyer for their upcoming fund-raising event.
- Assisted the Env Commission with graphics for their storm water management campaign.

The next Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14th.

Council Vice President Manny Couto:

Peppertown Park Committee met and is working with the Grant Committee on applying for a Park's grant. Some of the Park's design has been amended to bring together the new construction in town and to make the Park more residentially friendly. Fund Raising will still be done in the near future and all options are on the table. We discussed Bocci Ball, selling of Bricks for the walkway and other a raffle. Stay tuned.

The **Economic Development Committee** met in March and all members have been encouraged to reach out to local businesses for Names, Emails, and phone numbers. This is being done in cooperation with the Business and Civic Group. The Proprietary data base will be used "to help pinpoint issues facing local businesses and identifying opportunities for growth and expansion." So please, if you have a local business and you are not part of the Civic and Business Group, reach out so your voice can be heard.

The Economic Development hopes to meet with the Berkeley Heights Departments and Committees to see if there are processes that may be streamlined to help

Councilwoman Gentiana Brahimaj:

No report

Councilman Alvaro Medeiros:

Grants Committee met on March 17 and continues to work on

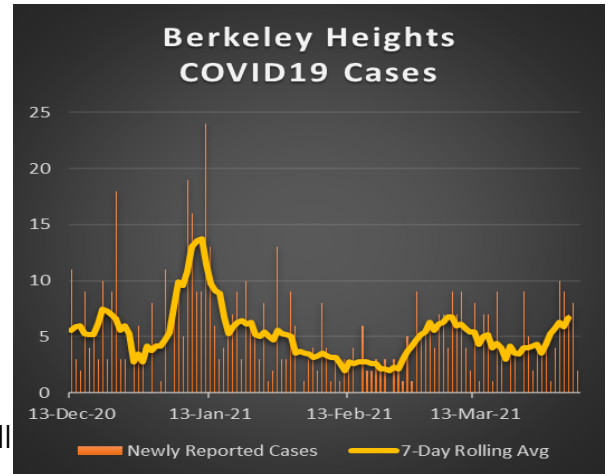
- AARP grant which is aimed to fund trail maps in town – this was prepared last year and is being updated in view of the tight timelines for submission and action (must be started in July and Complete by November)
- Little Lord Grant: Susan Poage continues to work with archeologist to visit the site as a pre-requisite for obtaining the larger grant we last pursued.
- Peppertown Park: Committee is pursuing NRPA Grant for between \$300k and \$500k to round out the funding for the renovation of the park. This Grant is due 4/23 and will disburse funds over 2.5 Years. We are working closely with Bruce Mustacchi on this.

The **Senior Advisory Board** met on March 17

- A sub-team was formed to develop a senior survey aimed at 65 and older residents that we hope to execute over the next month
- Health & Wellness Lectures were discussed and will look to leveraging continued presentations by one of the members, Richard Adamczyk who is a clinical Pharmacologist as well as resurrecting plans for the lecture series that Summit Medical offered to sponsor in 2020
- In discussing recreation opportunities, Carolyn George shared creative ideas such as sponsoring entertainment and luncheon events at Connell and the Embassy suites so that seniors are not obliged to go out of town.
- There remains strong interest in resuming and expanding the Senior bus service which requires availability of a driver

Councilman Jeff Varnerin:

- 17Mar **Board of Health Meeting**
 - COVID Infection trends (see herein) from publicly available Mayor reports (see Facebook).
 - COVID Vaccine Q&A collaboratively created by BoH, OEM and Administration. Please reference the township website.
 - Fats, Oils and Grease Trap Inspection Fee waiver unanimously voted to eliminate this as the township is no longer conducting the inspections and to give back to small business owners during the pandemic. Small business owners pay a licensed plumber to conduct the inspection and provide a report that is given to the township.
- There will be a **TRHT committee** meeting this coming Thursday April 8th to further work through language supporting a draft ordinance.



Councilman Stephen Yellin:

The **Historic Preservation Committee** met on April 1st and had a very productive session. I want to highlight 1 item in particular:

- We are looking to raise \$5,000 by the end of April in support of the Township’s efforts to restore and rehabilitate the Littell-Lord Farmstead. This will go towards the cost of hiring an archeologist to examine the property, and since we can’t rule out the possibility of finding something prehistoric, we’re encouraging the community to help us find out if we have dinosaur bones in Berkeley Heights! Residents will be able to donate online on our Township website – stay tuned for details.
- We are also working on another exciting project that can involve residents from all across our town – stay tuned!
- I also want to thank Brian Bernstein for his hard work in scanning historic photos from the old meeting room at Town Hall, as well as Amalia Medeiros and Louisa Grossman for their continued work with members of the Downtown Beautification Committee in deciding which pictures will be included throughout our new Municipal Complex.