

MINUTES - PLANNING BOARD

Workshop meeting of October 18, 2017

The meeting of the Cranford Planning Board was called to order by Ms. Anderson on October 18, 2017 at 7:33 P.M. in Room 108 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. Ms. Anderson announced in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the Westfield Leader or the Star Ledger had been notified and the agenda posted in the municipal building as required.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Ms. Murray – arrived at 8:00pm
Ms. Anderson
Dr. Chapman
Commissioner Dooley
Ms. Pedde
Ms. Steinbach

Members Absent:

Ms. Feder
Mayor Hannen
Mr. Taylor

Alternates Present:

Ms. Didzbalis

Alternates Absent:

Mr. Aschenbach

Also present:

Mark Rothman, Esquire; Ron Johnson, Zoning Officer; Ruthanne Della Serra, Interim Administrator/Scribe; Kathy Lenahan, Administrator/Scribe

2. RESOLUTIONS OF MEMORIALIZATION

None

3. MINUTES

Motion to adopt the minutes of September 6, 2017 was made by Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Ms. Steinbach and passed on unanimous voice vote.

Motion to adopt the minutes of October 4, 2017 was made by Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Ms. Pedde and passed on unanimous voice vote.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Electric Cars – Information issued by PSE&G in regard to electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and incentives.

5. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Announcement made as to new Cranford website. www.cranfordnj.org

Motion made for the Board to move into executive session was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Dooley with the following voting in favor of the motion: Ms. Steinbach, Dr. Chapman, Ms. Pedde and Ms. Didzbalis

Motion made for the Board to move into open session was made by Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Ms. Pedde with the following voting in favor of the motion:

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Steinbach, Dr. Chapman, and Ms. Didzbalis

6. WORKSHOP PORTION

Workshop meeting was moved into Council Chambers for a PowerPoint presentation.

Ron Johnson, Zoning Officer, introduced Phil Abramson from Topology. Mr. Abramson presented his credentials and stated that he is the co-founder and head project manager/ planner at Topology. He founded Topology in 2013-2014. Discussed their mission statement and how they like to empower their stakeholders. Stated that Topology did a Master Plan reexamination for Summit in 2016 and for Morristown in 2014. They have produced Master Plans and Reexaminations all over the state.

Topology provides an actionable planning agenda, built on community consensus. They aim to create a framework that establishes a long-term vision, is responsive to immediate needs and can be refined over time.

Process should be fun vs. adversarial and should outreach to keep community involved. Also should be action oriented.

Discussed the insights and observations of Cranford, that there is a strong real estate market in Cranford. That the Downtown has tremendous potential. Quality of pedestrian environment affects perceptions of places. Zoning and redevelopment to drive improvements the community hopes to see.

Discussed Electric Charging Stations potentially added to Master Plan. May wish to think about (and potentially promote) electric vehicle infrastructure in the reexamination/new Master Plan as pertains to sustainability among other improvements that can have a positive impact on the town.

Questions from Board regarding presentation ascertained the following:
It takes somewhere between 12-18 months to complete the process.
What was described was more robust than a reexamination but not a full redo of the Master Plan. Suggests you do the things you need to do for Cranford. Reexam would be what you want it to be and it should work for Cranford.

6. PUBLIC PORTION

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was regularly made, seconded and passed. The meeting concluded at 10:15 P.M.

Ann Steinbach, Secretary