

METUCHEN PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES

JANUARY 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. by Mayor O'Brien, who read the statement in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Present:	Ellen Clarkson, Vice Chr.	Catherine Totin, Councilmember
	Eric Erickson, Chr.	Roseann Misrahi, Alt. I
	Martin Jessen	John Leazer, Alt. II
	Deanna Manzo	Carlos Rodrigues, Planner
	Edmund O'Brien, Mayor	Robert Renaud, Attorney
	Kenneth O'Brien	Sharon Hollis, Secretary
Absent:	David Labrecque	Fany Ayala, Zoning Official

Annual Reorganization of the Board

Mayor O'Brien chaired the meeting temporarily for the purposes of the Board to elect the Chairman.

Chairman: Eric Erickson

A motion was made by Councilmember Totin, seconded by Mrs. Manzo. The nominations were closed. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman: Ellen Clarkson

A motion was made by Mayor O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Manzo. The nominations were closed. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney: Robert Renaud

A motion was made by Mayor O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Totin. The nominations were closed. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary: Sharon Hollis

A motion was made by Councilmember Totin, seconded by Mrs. Manzo. The nominations were closed. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Planner: James Constantine/Carlos Rodrigues, Looney Ricks Kiss

A motion was made by Mayor O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Totin. The nominations were closed. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor O'Brien explained to the Board that due to a conflict Dave Hoder, Maser Consulting, was not returning as Board Engineer. Mayor O'Brien stated that the Borough was seeking new engineering representatives and that he hoped that by the Council meeting scheduled for January 15, 2007 that there would be a new engineer on board.

Meeting Dates for 2007

January 4, 2007	January 18, 2007
February 1, 2007	February 15, 2007
March 1, 2007	March 15, 2007
April 5, 2007	April 19, 2007
May 3, 2007	May 17, 2007
June 7, 2007	June 21, 2007
-	July 19, 2007
August 2, 2007	-
September 6, 2007	September 20, 2007
October 4, 2007	October 18, 2007
November 1, 2007	November 15, 2007
December 6, 2007	-
January 3, 2008	January 17, 2008

After a brief discussion to remove some of the meeting dates, a motion was made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Manzo. Voice vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

The following members were appointed to the **Technical Review Committee: John Leazer, Dave Labrecque, Ellen Clarkson and Councilmember Totin.**

The public portion was opened.

Since no one came forward the public portion was closed.

Carlos Rodrigues, Board Planner, discussed his memo regarding the Downtown Development Workshop which took place on September 30, 2006.

Mr. Rodrigues stated on September 30th the Borough convened an all day workshop with morning and afternoon sessions mainly focusing on the D-1 district. Each session took a guided walking tour of the downtown development district. After the tour, the workshop broke into four groups; economic development and uses, traffic and circulation, public spaces and programming, streetscapes and design. Participants were free to stay with one group or circulate among the groups. At the end of each session, comments were presented. Five major points emerged from the discussions:

- Improve connections between Main Street and the D-1 district
- Improve circulation options throughout
- Create a significant new public space
- Create a more textured and varied architectural look
- Reinforce and extend the downtown

There was a brief Board discussion on traffic mainly on the intersection of Central and Middlesex Avenues.

Mr. Rodrigues stated no additional workshops are scheduled for now.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Hollis
Planning Board Secretary