

Committee Meeting – April 6, 2009
MAYOR’S REPORT

COAH HOUSING:

On tonight’s agenda is Ordinance 2009-12 for the second reading of the approval of the ML-6, multi family re-zoning. Both our Administrator and the developer will give an overview of the proposed project of a 70 unit state mandated affordable housing COAH apartment complex on both Pennsylvania Ave and Barnegat Blvd. After their presentations, we will open the floor for public comment. I will ask that comments be kept to three minutes or less, in an effort to hear everybody who wishes to speak. Please give your name and address prior to making your comments. I must also note that I and the other Committee members have received numerous emails, phone calls and personal comments on this issue, some of which were outright threatening. I will not entertain any such comments tonight. Inappropriate comments will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. You are asked to keep all comments to the issue at hand. This is not a question and answer period but a comment period in which residents can express their feelings on the proposed ordinance. Township Committee will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the ordinance prior to the vote.

HORIZONS @ BARNEGAT ISSUES:

The issue of the drainage basins at the Horizon’s @ Barnegat community are still in the process of being completed. Both the Township attorney and engineer are working towards finalizing this ongoing issue with the bonding company and their engineer. It is our hope that this work will be completed by the end of spring with the Township monitoring conditions for the next 2 years to insure adequate performance.

PARKWAY & WEST BAY AVE PROJECTS:

There are two important issues regarding the Parkway & West Bay Avenue projects. One is that the new on ramp for north bound traffic coming from the west was scheduled to open today, but will be opened on Tuesday. The new ramp is about 100 feet west of the old ramp and will mean that traffic should be prepared to turn sooner than they did before. The second issue is that the Turnpike Authority has denied our request for a continuous 8 foot sidewalk. Their contention is that they have provided both a 15’ shared curb lane and a 4’ grass berm area between the 4’ sidewalk and that this should be

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both sufficient and safer than an 8’ combined bike path and sidewalk. They also contend that a guide rail would be more of a detriment for bicycle traffic and therefore they do not recommend the installation of one. As stated at the last meeting, the Township will continue to work closely with the county in order pursue the request for a continuous 8’ combination pedestrian/bike path over the Garden State Parkway Bridge.

LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE:

Two Saturday’s ago, the Barnegat Little League held its annual parade and opening ceremony. The parade was a go, even though it was raining. Deputy Mayor Cirulli and Committeeman Lisella joined me for the jaunt from the downtown to the fields on Barnegat Blvd. Even though she was under the weather, we were happy that Committeewoman Ryan joined us at the opening ceremony hosted by Derek Davis and I had the distinction again of throwing out the first pitch of the season. And unlike previous Mayors, my pitch was a fast ball down the middle of the plate for a strike. My complements go out to the many volunteers that have made our Little League an overwhelming success for 30 years now.

TREE CITY USA:

With Arbor Day just around the corner, I’m happy to announce that Barnegat Township has once again been named as a “Tree City USA” community by the Arbor Day Foundation, for the 8th consecutive year. Much of this honor can and should be attributed to the efforts of our Shade Tree Commission under the guidance of their Chairwoman, Charlene Costaris. A proclamation for this years Arbor Day is on tonight’s agenda.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS:

Just a reminder that the School Board elections are coming up on Tuesday, April 21st . Please take the time to get out to the polls and make your choice for both the members of the school board and the 2009-2010 school budget.

Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township