

BOROUGH OF GLEN ROCK

Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2016 7:30 pm

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. This Meeting was included in a list of meeting notices sent to the Bergen Record and advertised in said newspaper, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statue. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Council Member O'Hagan - present
Council Member Surrago – present
Council Member Huisking - present

Council Member Pazan - present
Council Member Martin - present
Council Member Morieko – present

Mayor Packer– present
Anthony Suarez, Borough Attorney – present
Lenora Benjamin, Borough Administrator – present
Jacqueline Scalia, Borough Clerk – present

Mayor – thanked everyone that help out during the storm. Dpw did a great job they worked from 4am sat to 4am Sunday. Also thank you to everyone that stayed home to make it safe.

We have an ordinance on for final reading and we are going to open up the floor to the Arboretum folks. For anyone to ask any questions.

Arboretum

Tom Vielbig – handed out a five year and 7 year projected forecast and the second handout was a Q&A.

Council Member O'Hagan – asked Tom to hit some of the high point.

Tom Vielbig 21 Hillview Terr. – the payback of the loan, whether this is risk or we will be able to pay back the loan. We have raised \$52,000 per year, without a building for the last five years. Our track record is extremely strong. After the repayment of the loan average of \$5,000 - \$6,000 per year. Would like to go through the Q&A.

If this represents a commercial establish. Our website states commercial photography, this is for wedding and commercial photography.

- Who to pay utilities – the borough
- Internet & IT – arboretum
- Maintenance & repair – budgeted and cleaning to be done by friends. Only thing that would probably need repair pump.

- Insurance – friends has paid for D&O and the borough liability.
- Security – the friends will pay unless a specific requirement.
- Guarantee the loan – currently no guarantee it comes out to \$22,000 per year.
- Use restrictions – the friends would control the use
- Control of the building – nothing changes we are going to donate the building to the borough. Paid for by us and donated to the borough and the residents.
- Why did we ask for the loan – timing and the momentum?
- Construction performance bond – by the contractor so that is covered.
- 18,000 hours recorded for volunteer hours
- Will the building be ADA requirement – yes?
- No selling of goods or services. – Probably a donation box.
- No fee for residents. –
- Will the mayor & council be part of the board of the friends? No we will report to the borough as we have been.
- Financials are run by a CPA of a billion dollar corporation.
- Environmental impact study – no this building will cover under 4/10 % of the arboretum. Minimal impact. Traffic impact study – no prime visitor traffic during school hours during the school year.
- Emergency access – same site as a home on Doremus would be an issue.

Council Member Surrago – suggestion maybe put this up on the website it may help get the word out.

Council Member Morieko – asked if a formalized agreement can be signed

Tom Vielbig- will sign a paper that says that I will pay the first \$34,000. We are willing to sign for the first \$100,000.

Council Member O’Hagan – so this 238,000 comes down to \$138,000 so you are looking for less than \$140,000 unsecured.

Tom – we have already \$80,000 with cash on hand.

Council Member Huisking– who will guarantee the loan. You are donating the money and we are putting up the building. When you do estimates of construction plus or minus 5- 10 %, feasibility.

Tom – we already spend money approx. \$20,000 - \$30,000 in that area.

Council Member Huisking – assuming it got past and the bid comes back more than what happens.’

Tom – we want to provide a building but if it doesn’t make sense, or unreasonable, we will pull back and start over.

Tom Scherbo – we did get a reasonable estimate for the shell.

Council Member Morieko – whose office will be there?

Tom Scherbo – it will be a volunteer office for whom ever of the friends.

Mr. Suarez – long term lease. Covering of the expense would be in the long term lease agreement. Title report this will be on lot 3.

Tom – there are restriction on the land.

Public Comment –

Gabe Bullaro 512 Doremus Ave. – asked if a study has been done on the cost. Will this building have an ADA compliant? Cost estimate on the compliance with ADA.

Tom Vielbig– don't know the difference because it was figured with the ADA compliance.

Mr. Bullaro – small percentage of use square footage of the building, not the impact on the site.

Have you done a breakdown of what you and the town would be paying? How much do you think the town will be paying for the expenses? Have any of the things that the town would provide what would that cost be. Any possible that should be made to the site that the site would be safe and sure for visitors. Does anything needs to be done to the site for an emergency?

Tom – the building is nowhere near the pond.

Mr. Bullaro – you are getting a lease from the town.

Tom – yes but that isn't done yet.

Mr. Bullaro – I have to ask you to use the area.

Tom – yes we are going to be the scheduling for the facility.

Mr. Bullaro – when was the last time you gave the town a bank statement.

Tom – he have provided a financial statement.

Mr. Bullaro– I asked if a list of the donations, would be provided.

Eileen Hillock – 30 Edgemont Rd. – I would like to go public with a donation.

Mr. Jack Bronner – 36 Tonawanda – my concern is your setting a bad precedence, when you wanted a turf field you floated a bond issue. You have a group that wants to build a dog park, will they come to town then if they can't raise the money. I don't believe the town or the government should be lending money.

Mr. Gary Emery –24 Ferndale Avenue – where is the money coming from, are we borrowing the money and are we paying interest. We can take that \$238,000 and we can get a tax credit of \$66.00 I think you all should just resign if you vote for this. I don't lend anyone money interest free.

Mr. Alan Bronner – 522 Doremus Ave. I am adamantly against. Carol Thielke is a god sent to the town. Most people on my block don't want this. We are going to take .10th of an acre for this building as you turn left into the parking lot of the pool. We have a wonderful little park for the kids, go a little further on the strip there is a shed that holds tables and bathrooms, go a little further you will find signs all over the place. Go more to the right you will find the pathway to heaven. There are thousands of stones, there are planters all over, and then the pavilion well add the .3 acres to the ½ acres that are already taken. I have been involved forever with the arboretum. Wetland stump that is where they want to build the building. Billboard on Doremus Ave.

Tom – the sign has been there for five years. I changed the sign.

Mr. Alan – who authorized it. Does anyone know what was there before the sign was put there? I have 25 more other issues.

Tom Scherbo – 376 Rock Road – we have given thousands of hours, with volunteers loan balance a lot of civic groups in town a lot given back to the town. It's not all about dollar and sense.

Mr. Emery – this is the last land in Glen Rock that is free of structure, we have to preserve that. How can this town borrow money and give it to a group interest free. Lookup Arboretum and it has nothing about building in arboretum.

Tom – questions about a building being approved that was approved a long time ago. This is about the loan we are asking for a loan to complete the building in a timely fashion. Taking a class to that arboretum, now kids come we classes taught on busses to show the kids what the plants look like. Not bathroom, electricity or water. Hopefully the town would support it do to the fact this building will be donated

Marie Shuck – 90 Harding – this is a sign of success of the arboretum we are talking about the loan not the building.

Carol Thielke 1 Glen Ave. – we believe in the future of our children, what is going to come in the future, we never intended for this to take off the way it did, we are not being paid for this we feel this is something that the kids want to know and enhance the programs. We go from pre k to high school. Either we go ahead or we drop it, it's a lot of work we enjoy it. I know everyone is hung up on the dollar and rightfully so, but this is for the town.

Kay Tuite 1 Glen Ave. - gave a time line on the arboretum – we moved to Doremus Ave 50 years ago, it was a neighborhood environment. Fred Demarest seen the future of the arboretum. We are looking at organizations that have been supportive.

Joan Orseck – in 1987 or 1988 friends of the library came to the town we wanted an addition, we did the same thing with the library, so it's the same kind of thing.

Lenora Benjamin – the town took on debt to have the library completed, similar in style to this project.

Julie Allan – I love the arboretum – you are saying the google the educational center in Charleston South Carolina.

Walter Perry – trying to put myself in your position, I'm hearing a lot of stuff and feelings you are coming 10 years ago they could have asked for the money outright, they came with the majority of money, but they come to ask to borrow money. I haven't heard of any other groups that have provide you with financial statements, you have an organization that has shown we can do it.

Alan Bronner – gave some pictures for handouts.

Mayor – Dog Park they want to apply for a grant the requirement needs to be handed in by the government.

Michele Hillock – application for three different project grant is \$20,000 would move forward silver on the sustainable jersey, deadline is February 5th. Incorporate local business to help Gary Steven, Painting with a Twist and Blue Moon. Companion Animal Management plan, innovation community project 1 & innovation community project 2. Phase three is a nice to have not a necessity. August 2017. By September 2017 hope to have complete by 9/11. Phase I – Architecture, landscape, fencing, and signage.

Mayor – we are talking today vote yes or no to apply for the grant.

Council Member Surrago – council already approved the location, think it's a nice way to tie in the green stuff to get us closer to sustainable.

Council Member Martin – love the ideas very innovated, who you are going to do this once you get the grant.

Michelle Hillock – we have a lot of volunteers that would help the constructions,

Eileen Hillock – the MIT student we will partner with them and the federal government will pay 75% from the government toward that to hire an intern that will be able to on site.

Council Member Martin – what happens if you done get the grant?

Michelle – we wouldn't take it as a loss, it help us achieve our goal a lot faster.

Council Member Huisking – your goal was about \$75,000. How much have you raised so far.

Eileen - \$3,500 there is a budget attached, the actual dog park is approx. \$50,000. We have already reached out to people that would donate the fencing. Fence and gravel. Sustainable NJ it doesn't have to work we just have to try it, and we would get the money if someone else tries it.

Council Member O'Hagan – tremendous presentation. You have done your homework on this, I don't see why we wouldn't try to get you whatever fund that are out there.

All agree to submit the grant.

Mayor – January 16th Ambulance Corp dinner 25 yrs. celebrated for John Delatt. January 18th MLK celebrating, Cory Booker great day. January 19th Garden Club dinner. Ambulance are volunteers and appreciate your donations. Meeting today with the religious communities. Upcoming issue parking with the Schubert organization. Big decision to make with Glen Courts will ask that two or three council member take out in that, AR-1 Ordinance we are in the process of looking for a planner, once that is finished we will move forward on the ar-1 . Commuter shuttle and parking. A lot of talk about fire hydrants, based on what we are told the fire dept. feels three feet is sufficient, do we have anything setup for seniors that have hydrants. I will help work on that. I will talk with Bob the people that clear the hydrants and the plow comes by and puts it all back.

Council Member O'Hagan – some made a suggestion that getting other neighbors involved.

Council Member Huisking – we do have the list of the seniors that need the help with shoveling.

Mayor – if you have a hydrant on your property legally we can fine you if it's not done. Hope that people will work together.

Council Report –

Council Member Surrago – mention public safety we met with two shift of supervisor's office in charge arranging to meet with the other shifts.

Storm related

Interviews with the planner

Environmental commission for Wednesday night and GRTV

Council Member Pazan – the borrowing would be a BAN the debt plus the financial fees. Finance committee has been meeting another meeting Wednesday at 6:30 – police. Expensive to run the borough. Shade tree would like to consider a tree ordinance from another town will be passed around.

Council Member Huisking – great visit with the two squads and the full staff of the detectives, greatly appreciative. Finance we are in the middle of that \$18 million dollars.

Council Member Martin – great job with snow removal. cutting the corners with the massive amount of snow on the corners, will be trimmed down, and spot salting, clear the bike rake at borough hall, garbage and recycling will continue. Meetings with BOE are the same time, will met with Shel Hirschberg and we will meet monthly. Ridgewood water would like to request the 24 hr. service line on the website.

Mayor –Amy is our liaison to Ridgewood water.

Council Member Martin – hoping that they Ridgewood water will be coming to the meeting in April. Our next work session we will have the youth council sitting with us.

Council Member Huisking - Last August 26 meeting communication from Ridgewood water regarding the lead

Council Member O'Hagan – first parks and rec meeting spoke about the money allocated for fixing of the fields, which has already been budgeted, will bring that information back to the groups. Kids in town very active as always. Spoke with Mark trying to set up a meeting with the YMCA to talk and see where we are there. Thanked Art for being on top of the budget.

Council Member Morieko – ABC TV – filmed what would you do on Thursday. Library board of trustee meeting from February to April we will get Paramus employees working at our library during their renovations. Mango is no longer and now have ancestry.com 1,425 hits from Glen Rock so far. Complaint about mystery book, donations to the library \$500.00 to purchase books.

Admin Report –

Tax incentive programs – in the process of printing the flyer to go to each residence will receive 1 cards, still waiting for the mailing to come, article in the gazette. Looking to kick off the program February 1st. Detail to be for the third quarter taxes, saving to be noting on the bill, program 5 to close on April 30th. Then start again May 1st. Little feeler for the first few months. We are doing our part to do the promotions.

Mayor – 17 businesses signed up. Notice on the store front that they're participating.

Public Comment –

Irene Brown – resident requested that a police car be present at Main line station nearby for the evenings. Very thankful to have someone to do my shoveling, came on Saturday and again Sunday also the hydrant.

Mayor – happy to hear we have a volunteer for everyone that has asked.

Robyn Emery 24 Ferndale Ave. – hydrant not on our private property felt uncomfortable with the fine when it is on borough property.

Schubert parking – losing 50 spots behind the building will impact all those businesses.

Alan Bronner 522 Doremus Ave. – walk dogs with leashes with no longer than 6 feet long. Would like an ordinance that says no longer than 6 feet long, or a curb your waste ordinance, DNA testing. I am not against the dog walk, concerned with the placement, we have a nesting red tail hawk there. I don't see environmental study on the animals.

Eileen Hillock 30 Edgemont Rd. – we did not pick the site, the proposal was run by the environmental commission. I will look into that.

Gary Emery – saying the building is an asset to the town, why isn't it being required to pay the full amount of the loan. Vote on this Wednesday night, some questions on leasing, think the town should be notified of this and the town should be made aware of this with the loan. I would like to see this tabled for Wednesday.

Tom Vielbig- we did a study on the heating and the energy efficient we are estimating \$500.00 per month. We did do all our estimates and study's. The loan discussion has been for discussion approx. 5 months.

Alan Bronner – is the lease open for bidding,

Mr. Suarez – the friends are giving the building to the borough that doesn't mean the borough would put it out for an rfq.

Alan Bronner – the sign that is out there, I was told there is not permit to allow it so I want it taken down.

Gabe Bullaro – I feel there is two different vision of this place, a vision of these interest groups, I'm a resident that has been in town for 36 years, selfish reason that I enjoy the arboretum, in 1954 the mayor and council didn't want that land developed. Our town has had 62 years of the enjoyment, open air for the residents to enjoy. The same issue came up in 1954. Their agenda is to expand the commercial operation. The impact is on the entire 11 acres. You vote on the loan on Wednesday, it goes hand and hand with the building.

Mayor – I think that everyone loves the arboretum, that they are why it is what it is. We have to remember that, that are why the arboretum is what it is today.

John Thielke 44 Oxford Place – I resent the way you spoke to my mother, and I would like an apology.

Motion made by Council Member Surrigo to suspend the open session

Seconded by Council Member Huisking

All in favor

Adjourned