

March 20, 2014

A meeting of the Allendale Planning Board was held in the Municipal Building on March 20, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 8:10PM by Mr. Quinn, Chairman, who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following members answered to roll call: Mr. Quinn, Mr. Sasso, Mr. Sirico, Ms. Sheehan, Mr. Scherb, and Mr. O'Connell. Mr. Zambrotta, Mr. Barra, Mr. Walters, and Ms. Checki were absent.

Mr. Dunn swore in Mr. Scherb as he wasn't present at the January meeting and his term had expired. He was sworn in as a Class 2 Planning Board member because he is a Borough employee.

On a motion from Ms. Sasso, seconded by Mr. O'Connell, the minutes from January 16, 2014 were approved. Mr. Scherb abstained from voting as he wasn't present at the meeting.

The matter before the Board that evening was for security vestibules at Brookside and Hillside Schools. Charles Koch from Environetics and Michael Barcadepone who is the Allendale Superintendent of Schools introduced themselves to the Board. Mr. Koch explained to the Board that he has been working with the schools for the past eight or nine years and is currently developing some security upgrades that have been suggested by the Bergen County Task Force. Mr. Koch said that he was before the Board to explain the security upgrades needed as Brookside School will need a small addition to the outside of the building. Hillside School will need work done but only to the interior. Mr. Koch asked the Board to write any comments or suggestions they have to the New Jersey Department of Education. If they didn't have any issues and approved what was being proposed Mr. Koch asked the Board if they could write a letter saying that the Board supported the plans as soon as possible as he was hoping to do the project over the summer.

The first set of plans was for Hillside School. The vestibule is located inside the building in the front of the school and they are just enclosing it by adding an internal wall. They will put a greeter in the vestibule that will provide access into the building and give the visitors passes. The second set of plans was for Brookside School and was a bit more complicated. The corridor by the Board offices is where the vestibule will stand and because it is an egress corner the vestibule will be placed on the outside of the school. It will be 11x12 feet and a greeter will meet visitors there and give access into the building. The district applied for grants and received 40% funding for both projects. Ms. Sheehan asked where the other funding would come from and Mr. Koch said from the district. Ms. Sheehan asked about the total cost for the project and was told it was about \$180,000.

Mr. Sasso asked who recommended doing the vestibules and Mr. Barcadepone said that there was someone available from Homeland Security that was paid for by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. This security officer came and gave Bergen County school districts a security assessment for free. He did a walk-through of both facilities in conjunction with the Allendale Police Department and wrote a thirty-five page document of suggestions on how to make the buildings safer. Mr. Koch told the Board that 85% of the items on the document were already done or were in place at the time. This was the last recommendation that the security officer had provided. Mr. Koch also explained that the greeters will be able to do limited background checks on people to make sure that there are no sexual offenders entering the building or noncustodial guardians. They are not allowed to do criminal background checks on people by law. Once a person is cleared the greeter will allow the visitor access into the building. Right now they are letting people come into the school to do the background checks but the reason for the vestibule is to make sure visitors do not enter the building until cleared. Mr. Scherb added these checks are just another layer of security. If there is a problem there will be panic buttons that will immediately go to law enforcement. Mr. Quinn asked for the build out dimensions and was told that it was 10 feet by 9 feet. Mr. Sasso asked if this was in response to Sandy Hook and Mr. Barcadepone said yes. Mr. Sirico asked when the operation is in place and Mr. Barcadepone said from 8:00AM which is a half hour before the students arrive and until about fifteen minutes after students leave. Teachers can access the school from 7AM to 6PM on weekdays.

Mr. O'Connell asked if this construction was to be done during the summer and Mr. Koch said yes. Mr. O'Connell asked how long it would take and Mr. Koch answered about four weeks for Hillside and two months for Brookside. Mr. Quinn asked if the vestibule was going to be heated and the answer was yes. Mr. Barcadepone was asked about the greeters and there will be two in each building and they will be there from 8:15AM until 3:30PM. They will have a phone and computer to swipe the drivers' licenses for identification. Parents can drop off lunches and books with the greeter. Visitors would only be able to enter the building if they had a purpose. Mr. Barcadepone also explained how if you do enter the building your tag will tell people who you are and where you are going. He also explained how the licenses are swiped and the computer stores your information. Each parent will only have to swipe their license once as the computer retains that information. The next time the parent visits the computer will run a facial recognition program. The district will wipe everything out every June 30th so parents will need to swipe again next year.

Mr. Sasso asked if teachers and staff are trained to challenge anyone that is out of place and Mr. Barcadepone said yes. He said that parents, teachers, and staff need to be vigilant to keep the kids safe. Students are told by the teachers not to open the door for anyone and if someone is knocking at the door they should go and get a staff member to access the situation. Mr. Sirico asked about basketball programs on the weekends and whether people are going to be swiped in.

Mr. Barcadepone responded that they are only doing it during school hours. Gates are up to keep visitors from going throughout the school when basketball teams are using the gymnasium.

Mr. Sirico asked if the construction was glass and Mr. Koch said that it was brick and tempered glass. Mr. Yakimik asked if it was going to affect any site items and Mr. Koch said it was going to be put on a paved courtyard already. Mr. Quinn said the Board does not have jurisdiction over the school but the Board should take a poll as to whether they were in favor or not of the proposed vestibules so they could write a letter in support or not in support of the project for the school. Mr. Dunn agreed and said that the Planning Board appreciated the Board of Education appearing before them that night with a presentation. The Planning Board should make a recommendation to the State Board of Education. On a motion from Mr. Sirico, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, the Board approved writing a letter in favor of adopting the Board of Education's plans as submitted.

Mr. Quinn asked if the Board had anything else to discuss. Mr. Sasso gave the Board an update on what the Land Use Committee was working on at the meetings. The Committee is still looking into an interlocal search for the code official. The zones of ML4 and ML8 are being developed for the zoning map and Mr. Quinn suggested that the Land Use Committee do that quickly and get it back to the Board. The Committee is looking to increase liens for property maintenance. They are also looking to enforce owners of basketball hoops that are in the right-of-way to be removed and Allendale Police Department will be in charge of that part. The owner of Pastafino is still working with his insurance company and the insurance company of the person who drove his car through the restaurant's window.

Mr. Sirico asked whether they are doing a count of cars by Franklin Turnpike and Mr. Yakimik said yes because they are hoping to replace the culvert on Elm Street later this year and need to figure out a detour route for the cars. Mr. Sirico also asked about the traffic at the light on Franklin Turnpike and West Orchard Street and Mr. Yakimik said that the County needs money to upgrade the hardware to make a lead green for the light. They don't want to put a flasher light back there as traffic accidents have decreased since the traffic light was put at that intersection. The town will need money to do the engineering. Mr. Yakimik continued with the light at Brookside Avenue and West Crescent also needs to be upgraded and since it is by a school it will probably be done first.

On a motion from Mr. Sirico, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Knispel