ALPINE PLANNING BOARD

Alpine Borough Hall 100 Church Street Alpine, New Jersey 07620

MINUTES

February 24, 2015

<u>CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:</u> The Planning Board, Borough of Alpine, convened in regular session on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. Catherine Parilla read the announcement in accordance with the requirements of the Sunshine Law:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the notice of this regular meeting held Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. has met the requirements of the law by publication in The Record and posted on the bulletin board of the lobby in the Borough Hall and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Gayle Gerstein Catherine McGuire

David Kupferschmid Catherine Parilla Ralph Mattes Mayor Paul Tomasko

Lorraine Mattes

Members Absent: David Andrews
Jeff Fromm

Staff Present: John Phillips, Board Attorney

Gary Vander Veer, Borough Engineer Marilyn Hayward, Recording Secretary

SWEARING IN OF 2015 OFFICIALS: Paul Tomasko, Class I Member; Lorraine Mattes, Class II Member; Gayle Gerstein, Class III Member and Catherine Parilla, Class IV Member were sworn in by Attorney Phillips.

REORGANIZATION:

Nominations: Chairperson: Catherine Parilla Tomasko Gerstein

Vice-Chair:Catherine McGuireTomaskoGersteinSecretary:Jeff FrommTomaskoMcGuire

There were no further nominations. The motions were carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

Board Engineer: Gary Vander Veer, P.E. of Azzolina & Feury

Board Attorney: John Phillips, Esq.

Borough Planner Joseph Burgis, P.P. of Burgis Assoc., Inc. Special COAH Counsel: Robert Kasuba, Esq. of Bisgaier Hoff, LLC

Recording Secretary: Marilyn Hayward

A motion to re-appoint the professionals and staff referenced above and to adopt the Professional Services Resolutions for Board Attorney, Board Engineer and Borough Planner was made by Gayle Gerstein and seconded by Paul Tomasko. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairperson Parilla questioned why the Planning Board doesn't open its' meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attorney Phillips advised we can if the board chooses to. The majority of members were in favor, and it was agreed that the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited this evening and at the opening of each meeting.

RE-ADOPTION OF PLANNING BOARD BY-LAWS:

A motion to re-adopt the Planning Board By-Laws was made by Mayor Tomasko and seconded by Gayle Gerstein. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2014 REGULAR MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 Regular Planning Board meeting and Executive Session was made by Gayle Gerstein, seconded by Catherine McGuire and carried by those eligible to vote.

OPEN TO PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS): There were no members of the public in attendance.

<u>MEMORIALIZATION OF RESOLUTION: Block 76 Lot 2; LaBarbiera Soil Moving</u>: A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mayor Tomasko, seconded by Gayle Gerstein and carried by those eligible to vote.

<u>MEMORIALIZATION OF RESOLUTION: Block 81.01 Lot 6; Tal Soil Moving</u>: A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mayor Tomasko, seconded by Gayle Gerstein and carried by those eligible to vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: All duty noted: no comments.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Planning Board's budget for the year 2014 was \$10,000; total expenditures were \$627. A motion to propose a budget of \$10,000 to Mayor & Council was made by Mayor Tomasko and seconded by Catherine McGuire. All were in favor.

BILLS:	John Phillips, Esq.	\$540.00	Tal Soil Moving (escrow)
	John Phillips, Esq.	460.00	LaBarbiera Soil Moving (escrow)
	John Phillips, Esq.	200.00	December 2014 meeting attendance

A motion to approve the above referenced bills was made by Gayle Gerstein and seconded by Catherine McGuire. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

<u>Northern Valley Mayors & Planners Assoc.</u>: The Mayor reported that the first meeting of the year will be held this Thursday. The presenter will be the Acting County Parks Chief. The Mayor extended the invitation to any board members interested in attending.

<u>Board of Health</u>: A meeting was held on February 10th. The Board appointed Nancy Wehmann as Registrar of Vital Statistics. The Mayor also reported that the Board agreed to support the Stigma Free Initiative, which puts the Board on record as supporting the idea that people with mental illness can get treatment without feeling that there is a stigma associated with doing so. Information regarding this topic was provided to him at a Mayor's breakfast meeting attended by the County Executive and County Director of Health. This item is on the Mayor & Council Feb. 25th agenda.

<u>Environmental Commission</u>: Ms. Mattes advised they approved one property this month. At their upcoming March 26th meeting Alex McCartney, the Urban Forestry Coordinator, will speak regarding trees in general and problems with trees in the area, and will explain the process for obtaining grants. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM.

Building Department: The reports were distributed. There were no comments.

<u>Board of Adjustment Annual Report</u>: David Kupferschmid remarked that there were no major issues to report. The Mayor added that he is pleased to see that there were only four variances granted last year.

NJ Transit Update: No new developments.

<u>COAH Update:</u> Mayor Tomasko reported that the court still has not ruled on the motion brought by Fair Share Housing to take away various towns' immunity unless more affordable housing is built. The Mayor also reported that there was significant damage to one of the Borough's affordable housing units as a result of pipes freezing while the occupants were away. A good part of the damage is covered by the Borough's insurance and the balance will come from our affordable housing trust fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:56 PM providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq. for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to litigation concerning Alpine III vs. the Alpine Planning Board as permitted under N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b.7. was made by Catherine McGuire and seconded by Gayle Gerstein. An Executive Session closed to the public shall be held for the discussion of matters relating to the specific item designated above. It is further noted deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Borough Council that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality. All were in favor.

The Planning Board reconvened in regular session at 7:59 PM.

OTHER MATTERS:

Ms. Mattes remarked that subsequent to her comments at the last meeting regarding digital signs, she looked at our sign ordinance and noted that the ordinance does prohibit illuminated signs. She asked that Attorney Phillips review it, particularly with regard to whether LED lighting should be included as a form of illumination. Mr. Phillips will see if the ordinance needs to be amended to encompass the changes in technology.

<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> A motion to adjourn the regular Planning Board meeting was made by Ms. Gerstein and seconded by Ms. McGuire. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Hayward Recording Secretary