

MINUTES

CRESSKILL PLANNING BOARD

MAY 24, 2022

Mr. Ulshoefer opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and announced the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been fulfilled.

Members present at roll call: Mayor Romeo, Councilwoman Schultz-Rummel, Mr. Ulshoefer, Mr. Malone, Mr. Rummel, Mr. Sutera and Ms. Tsigounis. Ms. Furio arrived at 7:33 and Ms. Bauer and Mr. Berger arrived at 7:40. Also present were Mr. Paul Azzolina, Borough Engineer, and Mr. Dean Stamos, Board Attorney.

Mr. Malone made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, meeting, seconded by Mr. Sutera. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

Correspondence

Email from Mr. Madaio asking to carry the Public Hearing for Applications #1578M and 1581, 33 and 35 Westervelt Place to the June 28, 2022, meeting.

Application for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification for 108 Truman Drive, Mrs. Sunghee Park, Application #1580. File.

Letter of Introduction from Mr. Bob Rusch, Construction Official, dated May 12, 2022, sending Mr. Cha to this Board for approval. He is seeking a driveway waiver (as per 218-E(1)(c)) at 45 Florence Avenue. No one was present.

Notice from PSE&G regarding the application for an Extension of a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit Number 2 PSE&G Natural Gas Distribution and Transmission System Rights-Of-Way Maintenance. File.

Subdivision Committee

Ms. Tsigounis had nothing to report.

Report from the Borough Engineer's Office

Mr. Azzolina had nothing to report.

Old Business

None.

Public Hearing Application #1578M & 1581, 33 & 35 Westervelt Place

The Public Hearing for Applications #1578M and 1581, 33 & 35 Westervelt Place, is being carried to the June 28, 2022, meeting, with no additional notices. Mr. Stamos announced for the record that there will be no further notice.

New Business

None.

Other Business

Mr. Keith Brassel was present and had some questions on 123 10th Street that abuts the rear of his property. Mr. Brassel went through the exercise of getting all the procedures done as far as removing six trees on his property that he planted back in 1980 and it cost \$875 dollars on top of the tree removal. At 123 10th Street, they have removed approximately 40 white pines that faced 10th and the adjoining neighbor on the left. The trees were about the approximate size of the trees that he removed. His neighbor on 11th was also very upset that all these trees came down. He asked about the permit because what he had to do is take pictures of the trees, measure four feet up for the diameter, mark the tree, sent everything down to Haley with everything documented. He doesn't know if that was ever done and didn't get a response about it. Then he was hearing from the neighbor and others that the 123 resident had purchased property from 128 10th Street. He said he just paid \$180,000 for the lot. He said that would have been a minor and he would have had to have been notified and it would have been a public hearing. Without having the map, the property is directly north of 123 10th. It is a small lot and then there is a home. He doesn't know when this transpired. There was probably 4-5 days worth of tree work done on the property.

Mayor Romeo asked if he thought they were going to build on it. Mr. Brassel said not unless they truly subdivide it. He has increased his northern side yard. He doesn't know what his game plan is, all he knows is that he took down a tremendous amount of not only the white pines but in the vacant lot area, those were all healthy oaks. He took photos of it and showed them to Mr. Rusch. He has not heard back and now grading has taken place. There were good size rocks that were put on the 10-foot line. It's kind of like anything goes. He is just trying to draw attention to it because what is good for goose is good for the gander.

Mayor Romeo stated that if he doesn't plan on building a house, we wouldn't necessarily know about it. If he has broken the tree ordinance he will be fined. Mr. Brassel said that he had a crane there for three days. He has photos of it. There are neighbors that are upset. There were two oaks within the 10-foot line to the curb line and those were just also eliminated. Mayor Romeo will have Mr. Rusch go and look at it.

Mr. Ulshoefer opened the meeting to the public. No public wished to be heard. Mr. Ulshoefer closed the meeting to the public.

Motion was made by Mr. Berger to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM, seconded by Ms. Tsigounis. All present were in favor. Motion approved.

The next four regular Planning Board meetings are scheduled for June 14, June 28, July 12, and July 26, 2022, at 7:30 PM in the Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Petillo
Recording Secretary