

LIBRARY
MAY 1978
SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 13, NO. 39

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1972

15 CENTS A COPY

Mayor Names Seven To Environmental Commission

Mayor Theodore Trumpp appointed seven Fanwood citizens as members of a new municipal commission - the Environmental Commission - at a special meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council held last Wednesday. Three commissioners were named to three-year terms expiring in December of 1974. They are William Kluckas, Barbara Adams, and Dr. Anthony Sartor. Kluckas will be the first chairman of the commission.

The three have been active both in the local Scotch Plains-Fanwood Environmental Action Group and were the three members of the Mayor's Environmental Committee of Fanwood - a unit which was formed in 1972 but replaced by official Borough Council creation of the Commission last month.

M. Douglas Beals, a former Fanwood Councilman, and Douglas Purdy, were named to two-year terms, while one-year members named include William Cameron and Lucille Loeb. Councilmen John McCall and Stephen Ritter were absent. Councilman John Swindlehurst opposed the entire slate of nominees only because his motion to separate the candidates in order to permit him to cast a vote in opposition to the Cameron appointment received no second.

In Swindlehurst's view, Cameron is a fine person and he has no doubt about qualifications, but questioned his ability to attend

meetings faithfully, since Cameron has missed two-thirds of the Planning Board meetings.

Cameron explained that, as a pilot, he has had to make arrangements to fly a different type of aircraft in order to have more time available for community involvement -- a move he makes with a cut in pay and gladly, since he is concerned about his community. However, Cameron noted that the change in classification required some re-training and a time wait to be reclassified, which occasioned his absences at Planning Board meetings. He has assured Mayor Trumpp that he is not only interested but will be able to attend Environmental Commission meetings faithfully.

In another special meeting on the same night, the Council authorized the advertisement for bids for carting services and/or rental of equipment for leaf pick-up.

Community Council Plans Youth Activity Program

The Community Council hopes to provide recreational and social activities for Scotch Plains-Fanwood young people, possibly with some activities to be held as early as the Thanksgiving and Christmas vacations. The Council has received a grant of \$25 from the Human Rights Council for starters, and has planned two money-raising events for the near future.

Heywood Gipson, President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community Council, announced the council plans on Sunday.

Gipson said the young people need their own dances, trips, and other activities, but they first need the money. He said the teenagers will sell pocket flashlights in the weeks ahead, and a garage sale is slated for October 14 at 350 Myrtle Avenue.

The Council, which numbers both adult and teen members, is the coordinating unit for the Union County Anti-Poverty Agency. Fifteen local boys were placed in summer jobs during the past summer season through the Council. The majority of them worked in the Recreation Commission program in Scotch Plains.

The federal anti-poverty program does not grant much assistance to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood area, since residents are generally too affluent. However, Gipson noted that there are instances of individual needy cases, and program funds could be put to good use. He hopes to obtain such grants in the future.

In addition, he will seek an increase in the teen employment program. Gipson feels that there may be opportunities within the township for employment for girls as well as boys, for instance as clerical assistants in the municipal offices.

Gipson pointed out what he considers a prime recreation need -- more basketball courts. While the township is now contemplating an outlay for con-

struction of additional tennis courts in Kramer Manor, Gipson says more residents would be able to use basketball courts. There are now only four outdoor courts in the community, he said.

Board Reports Favorable Rates On School Bonds

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education sold \$4,250,000 worth of bonds for a school expansion program, at a special meeting held last Thursday, October 5. The bonds were sold to low bidder Kidder, Peabody, Inc. at a 4.75 percent interest rate. The firm was the lowest of seven bidding companies.

In the spring, the Board had also offered the bonds for sale at a 20-year maturity but had rejected all bids as being unsatisfactory. In this repeat bond offering, the life of the bonds had been reduced to 16 years, in the spring, the Moody's rating of the school district was "A" while the rating was advanced to a more favorable "AA" rating this month.

By selling the bonds during the past week on September 28, instead of having accepted the bids last April, the Board of Education will have saved over \$750,000 in interest costs to the taxpayers over the life of the bonds. Considering the market last week, board members indicated their pleasure at the 4.75 interest rate, which was below the average for AA bonds.

Committee Seeks End To Unsupervised State Building In Township

Leaf Pickup Starts Oct. 16

Leaf pickup in Scotch Plains will begin on October 16, weather and leaf drop permitting. According to a release from the Scotch Plains Township Committee, leaf trucks will attempt to cover the entire town in a week if the amount of leaves permits.

Although leaves in bags will be accepted, the practice of bagging the leaves is discouraged, and windrows are suggested instead.

Branches, stones, bottles, etc. ruin the equipment and can be hazardous to men operating the machines, so residents are requested to exercise care in leaving only leaves to be collected. No grass clippings will be taken with the leaves.

Lots Of Part-Time Workers

The response to the proposal to establish a list of potential part-time clerical workers has surpassed all expectations, according to Township Committeeman Lawrence Newcomb. Over 60 persons, including both men and women, have contacted the Township in the two weeks since he first proposed the list, Newcomb said. As he explained the purpose of the list, occasionally the Township workload is unusually heavy or several employees may be absent, and the Township has found itself short of office help. Rather than seeking the necessary temporary replacements through outside employment agencies, the list will fill that void with local people. It is not practical or desirable to maintain an office staff large enough to fill all the vacancies that might occur while the use of agency help can be expensive. Thus, besides providing the town with replacements who are interested in the community, it should help hold down the cost of government in Scotch Plains, Newcomb added.

Newcomb went on to say that anyone else who is interested in having their name added to Scotch Plains' list of part-time workers should contact Mrs. Shirley Capone, Secretary to the Municipal Administrator in the Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, or they may call Mrs. Capone at 322-6700.

Asks End To Immunity From Local Building Codes

At the present time, state agencies owning property in local municipalities and building upon such land are not subject to site plan review, sub-division and zoning ordinances of the various local municipalities. Furthermore, both Boards of Education and state agencies are not subject to inspection of construction on their premises by local building inspectors, municipal engineers, and/or directors of public works.

The Township of Scotch Plains, and its Planning and Zoning Boards, seek to change such immunity provisions, and Planning Board attorney David Feinberg has written to N.J. Senator Jerome M. Epstein, asking that he introduce a bill before the New Jersey Legislature which would require all state and county entities, prior to commencement of construction on premises owned by them in any municipality in the state, to submit their plans to the local Planning Board and Building Inspector for guidance and advice and approval and to require the imposition of controls and restrictions by local municipalities with regard to said construction.

Scotch Plains' governing body was placed in an awkward situation last year, when residents expressed concern over reports that the state was planning to build a school for special education students on the Cosanka property in Terrill Road. The township was never notified of the pending construction, and township officials had to pursue state officials repeatedly to get any answers. The school will be built on the site.

Construction by any state agency on land within any municipality imposes upon municipal officials the burden of answering all questions regarding safety, proper planning, traffic increase, ingress and egress, etc. - justifiable concerns of residents which find municipal officials hard pressed to provide answers when they have not been informed of pending construction. The school on Terrill Road will be built without prior consultation with municipal officials.

The township has available to any state or county agency a professional planning consultant and a professional Planning Board for enlightenment of state and/or county officials in matters of architectural design, drainage, fire, construction, safety, etc.

Colasurdo Resigns

Anthony Colasurdo, who has served as Township Administrator in Scotch Plains for the past four years, has resigned from that position. His resignation has been accepted by the Scotch Plains Township Committee, effective October 15. Colasurdo plans to accept a new position from among several offers, and will make a final decision within the next week.

He joined the Scotch Plains government after having served in a similar position in Wayne. With a governmental change to go into effect beginning in January, 1973, Scotch Plains will no longer have an administrator. A Council-manager form of government will be instituted, with a township manager expected to be appointed when the change becomes effective.

Listening Post Set For Saturday

The regular monthly session of the LISTENING POST will be held Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon in the council chambers of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. All residents who wish to address themselves to the new zoning ordinance are invited to attend. Hopefully the informal atmosphere at the LISTENING POST will encourage wide resident participation that will help make the new ordinance reflect the will of the majority of residents. Messrs. James Walsh, Township Attorney, and James McCann, Building and Zoning Officer, have been invited to attend and will assist Committeemen Augustine Grote and Newcomb.

In addition Scotch Plains residents who wish to comment on the use of political signs in residential areas are also invited to attend. An ordinance which had totally prohibited such signs in residential areas of Scotch Plains was recently invalidated by court order. The Scotch Plains Township Committee will be available at the LISTENING POST to hear from the residents and incorporate their thinking in any revised ordinance.

As usual the LISTENING POST will be available to any Scotch Plains resident who wishes to be heard, regardless of the subject.

IN THIS ISSUE

Scotch Plains Baptist Church
225th Anniversary Section

Turn to Page 17