

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 15, No. 28

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1974

15 CENTS A COPY

Plan Board Votes Master Plan Study

The Scotch Plains Planning Board voted this Monday to recommend to Township Council a revision of the Master Plan in order to provide the planners with an updated guide for long range development of the community and protection of the environmental, cultural and esthetic characteristics of the community. The last revision of the Master Plan was completed in 1963. According to the resolution adopted by the planners, that plan, now ten years old, did not foresee or consider several development problems now before the Planning Board.

The Planning Board has requested and received a proposal for updating from the consulting firm Boorman and Dorram, Inc., which meet the needs of the planners. The board's 1974 budget has accrued a \$2,000 consultant services credit from the 1973 budget under state 50/40 funding program, and also has available under the same program \$3,000 for the 1974 year, for a total of \$5,000. This would be applied to the total cost of \$20,000 for the updating, with the remaining \$15,000 to come from capital improvement funds earmarked in the 1974 budget for "Land Use Studies," if approved by the Council.

A projection of multi-family needs, future recreational facilities, new housing, roads, businesses and industrial facilities necessary for a growing population were cited as reasons for the Master Plan updating.

Thomas DeLuca, a member of the audience at the Monday night Planning Board session, asked how town fathers planned to accomplish whatever might be spelled out in the Master Plan. He cited the fact that the township has had an area earmarked for industrial development for many years, but that development has never taken place.

Past Master Plans have not been implemented by the necessary zoning ordinances, guides, etc. which are necessary for effective implementation, he was told. The Planning Board role is only that of recommending. The Council must then implement a Master Plan.

Utilizing the Boorman-Dorram firm would permit considerable savings because the consultants already have maps, studies, etc. Cornacchia noted that many mu-

To Hold Public Meeting On School One Rezoning

The Planning Board of Scotch Plains will hold a public hearing on proposed rezoning of School One property before the Township Council holds its own similar hearing and vote. The planners voted 6-2 to schedule a hearing on the matter during their September meeting.

Under consideration is a move to change the property from the present P-Public zone to a B-1 business zone on the Park Avenue frontage and an R-3A zone on the Forest Road frontage. These zoning designations were recommended by a citizens committee named by the Board of Education. The land is now owned by the Board, but no longer used for a school. Board plans call for selling the land and applying the funds, which could run in the area of \$200,000 - \$250,000, to further updating of Park Junior High School.

Mrs. Robbie Mason, liaison to the Planning Board from the Board of Education, said she was "vastly disappointed once again." While she couldn't argue with the intended meaning behind holding a public hearing, she said the Planning Board to

municipalities pay \$30,000 - \$40,000 for similar revisions.

Planning Board Chairman Michael Cornacchia addressed the question of the industrial property adjacent to Lake Avenue. A lot of hard work on the part of the Mayor and the industrial committee has been expended to get applications for development of that Lehigh Valley - bordered site, Cornacchia said. "We hope to have a surprise for you very soon," he said. A major company has made overtures toward establishment of their East Coast headquarters at the industrial site.

Mayor Walter Grote pointed out that although the industrial park has been so labeled since 1963, it is privately owned. The township sewered the tract in 1971, to upgrade it, make it more valuable, and induce development. The one plan for Valley Industrial Park did not meet township standards and was turned down.

The Planning Board site review committee has studied an application for a 121-unit apartment development on Old Lake Avenue, submitted by Richard Schneider. The committee recommended referral to the Board of Adjustment. The site review report noted that although a variance is required because larger apartments are contrary to the ordinance, there are only two bedrooms in the units, which should not be a deterrent; the complex does not meet front and rear entrance requirements in the zoning ordinance, but applicant conforms in number of entrances but in opposite locations, which should be considered sufficient by the Planning Board; protection of river bank should

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date had received only one letter of opinion on the rezoning proposal, and therefore she felt that the public would have ample opportunity to express its opinion when the matter came up before the Township Council for consideration.

Mayor Walter Grote, who recommended the additional public hearing to the Planning Board, said he felt that at the Township Council session to consider the change, the Planning Board members would be invited to be on hand, and he felt the "triangle" of public, Council and Planning Board members might become cumbersome for purposes of discussion and argument. He therefore felt the preliminary public hearing at the Planning Board level would furnish welcome input to the Council.

Citizens Cheer Move To Acquire Historical Fanwood Homesite

Finance Director Is Named

Daniel R. Allan, Municipal Manager of the Township of Scotch Plains, today announced the appointment of Dennis F. O'Neill to the position of Director of Finance for the Township. Mr. O'Neill is presently the Assistant Municipal Comptroller of the city of Hackensack, New Jersey. He will begin his duties with the Township August 19, 1974, at a salary of \$16,500 per year.

The position of Director of Finance is one that was created in the Administrative Code adopted by the Township Council in 1973, and has been filled in the absence of anyone else specifically appointed to the position by the Manager, Mr. Allan. The Department of Finance is comprised of the Division of the Treasury, Division of Assessments and Division of Tax Collection. Mr. Allan announced that Mr. O'Neill's qualifications and past experience indicate he is uniquely suited to fulfill the duties required by the office.

Mr. O'Neill earned his B.S. in accounting from Rutgers University. He has certificates from Rutgers in Municipal Finance, Electronic Computers, Current Fund Accounting, and Capital-Trust Fund Accounting. He has served for 3-1/2 years as assistant to the Controller in Hackensack where his duties included analyzing cash and update cash flow statements daily determining available cash for investment purposes. He initiated an investment program in December 1972 which to date has realized \$370,000 in interest for the city of Hackensack. He has had supervision responsibilities over an office where such matters as Budget Appropriation Records, Accounts Payable, Payroll, Purchasing, Personnel Records and Cash Receipts were handled. Mr. O'Neill is presently continuing studies at Rutgers University in order to complete state required courses resulting in Certified Finance Officer's License.

Prior to his employment with Hackensack, Mr. O'Neill served three years with the firm of Lauff, Erber and Buono CPA's Hackensack, as a staff accountant, assisting the partners in state required auditors of over 15 Boards of Education and Townships, and became familiar with state laws and guidelines governing the daily operation of Municipal and School Governments.

Mr. O'Neill is married and expects to relocate in the Scotch Plains area within the near future.

Fanwood Tax Office Open On Saturdays

The office of the tax collector in Fanwood will be open on Saturdays, July 27, August 3 and August 10 from 8 a.m. till 1 a.m.

Ordinance Would Appropriate \$250,000 For Acquisition Of Slocum Property On Martine Ave.



Next Borough site? The Fanwood Borough Council started the ball rolling last week toward acquiring the 75 North Martine property.

It was mid-summer and it was hot last Wednesday, but that didn't deter a large crowd of Fanwood citizens who were on hand for the Borough Council meeting. They came to encourage the Fanwood Borough Council to acquire a five-acre property on Martine Avenue. However, the Council has an ordinance already on the agenda, which would appropriate \$250,000 for acquisition of the Slocum property on Martine Avenue.

The tract is the only sizeable piece of property left in mile-square Fanwood, and the Council hopes to acquire it and eventually to use it for a new municipal building. For some time now, the governing body has discussed various approaches to improving municipal facilities, which are sorely overcrowded and out-of-date in their present Watson Road Borough Hall. However, if and when the Council should acquire the Slocum property, no determination has yet been made as to whether the home would be useable for a municipal facility or whether another use would be found for the home, with municipal facilities to be built on the land behind it. The property includes the house, with circular drive in front, facing on Martine Avenue, with an L-shaped lot behind it, running through to Watson Road and Russell Road.

Mayor Ted Trumpp said that if acquisition attempts were successful, he would move toward very broad citizen input on uses. Trumpp said he would appoint a citizen's committee to study all aspects of land and needs and would anticipate that it would take at least two years for any final determination to be made.

Response from the audience was totally favorable, with citizens complimenting the Council on moving swiftly to attempt to get the land. Norman Geuter of the Planning Board said that body had long desired to see the Slocum property earmarked for a municipal facility, but he and Trumpp both noted that overtures had not been made because the governing body did not want to appear to be "railroading" the former Mayor out of town. Slocum, who served as Mayor from 1930 to 1933, has expressed interest in town acquisition of the

land, Trumpp said. He recently moved South.

There is no positive commitment to buy the land. Of the \$250,000 which would be authorized if the ordinance were passed next month, \$200,000 would be bonded, and \$50,000 would come from capital expense. The public hearing is slated for August 14. If the price were to be out of line, the Borough would not proceed with purchase, Councilman Charles Coronella said.

Justus Agnoli, who has long been active in Fanwood civic activities and historical affairs, urged the Council to retain the house itself. It is one of the two pre-Revolutionary homes remaining in Fanwood, Agnoli said. Agnoli also reminded Council of his desire to see the present Borough Hall, dating to 1897, saved because it is "synonymous with the borough beginnings."

Joseph Schott of Watson Road also urged the Council to keep

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Bike Owners Get Reprieve

Fanwood cyclists have a 30-day grace period before they can expect to be apprehended for violations of the borough's new bicycle inspection and licensing ordinance. The ordinance, which was scheduled to become effective on June 30, will not be effective until July 31, and citizens who have not yet had their bicycles inspected and licensed have further opportunities to do so.

Two evenings, July 16 and July 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., have been set aside for inspections at La Grande School parking lot. A special effort will be made to hasten efforts through the inspection lines.