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Fanwood Rejects Subdivision Plea

The Fanwood Borough Council has turned down an application for a subdivision, which would have allowed new construction on the site of the Todd home at Tillotson Road. Council seeks to consider an application for a major subdivision, rather than in the minor subdivision form which was presented as a recommendation from the Board of Adjustment. If major subdivision status were considered by Council, the governing body could then impose upon the applicant restrictions on the property to best serve the community.

Council seeks to impose drainage restrictions upon building for the area. At present, one large home is located on the land, for which subdivision to three lots is sought. According to Mayor Ted Trumpp, there is Council concern that the property be drained properly, so that problems are not created for those who may ultimately locate in the new homes, and for neighbors, who have flooding problems now. Trumpp said all too often new building results in aggravation of conditions when it is too late to take action.

Dan Bernstein, attorney for Graybar Builder, prospective developers of the property, charged that Council could not impose entire responsibility for area drainage upon one builder, but would have to assess nine different property owners for any mutually beneficial drainage improvements mandated. Bernstein said the Todd property is the highest in the area, and any off-site drainage should be shared by the neighborhood.

Councilman Robert McCarthy, in explaining his vote, said knowledge of environmental impact is a must, since taking down trees causes more water to accumulate. McCarthy pointed out that there are already homes on Forest Road, backing up to the

property in question, where water accumulates half way up the rear yards. McCarthy and other Council members want a closer look, and want to provide the Environmental Commission with a longer period than the one they had to look at the question.

Mrs. Robert Krauss, one of the Forest Road property owners, said she believes construction of her house recently, blocked the natural runoff from the Todd property. She has had water several feet deep in her yard at least ten times, she said, in urging caution.

Borough Engineer Richard O. Luster explained that there are nine lots contributing to surface water runoff, all on high lands. There is a depressed area in the high property of the Todd parcel, which retains water and is not well drained in its present condition. The subdivision application did not present any on-site solution to this problem, Luster said. In order to drain to a storm sewer in Forest Road or in Midway Avenue, the developer would have to do off-site improvements, Luster noted.

The two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Todd appeared in behalf of their parents, who own the

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Boys Collect Funds For Hydrant Painting

As the paint-a-hydrant campaign spreads from Fanwood into neighboring Scotch Plains, enthusiasm runs high. Especially on Gamble Road, where four young boys are most anxious to see a drummer boy appear on the fire hydrant which serves their neighborhood. They've actually gone out and canvassed their neighborhood, seeking contributions of small change to give to the Bicentennial Committee to offset the costs of paint kits.

The four boys are friends of Mrs. W.L. Sampson, one of their Gamble Road neighbors. Mrs. Sampson read about the paint-a-hydrant project. She wanted to paint her neighborhood hydrant herself, but will be away for a while. She discussed her wishes with the boys. They decided they'd like to do their part toward getting their hydrant painted, and took upon themselves the collection duties. Mrs. Sampson fashioned a small card, with a picture of a drummer boy from a Christmas card. The boys spelled out the message of appeal to the neighborhood, then took off ringing doorbells.

The four-man "committee" ranges in age from seven to ten. Tommy Barth is chairman. His members include his brother Bobby, Todd Pugh, and Walter Holder, who came from Quimby Lane, around the corner, to join the collector tasks. They've now got \$6.15 to donate to the committee, and upper Gamble Road awaits the touch of an artist's brush.

Speaking of artist's brushes, painting still goes on in Fanwood. That community recently

achieved national recognition when two top television channels carried news features on the hydrant-painting here. The film clips were watched by officials of the Strauss Paint Brush Laundry. They sent an enthusiastic letter to the Fanwood Borough Council, congratulating the community upon providing some pleasant, non-violent form of news for national consumption. Better yet, Strauss also sent a bundle of laundered brushes!

Scotch Plains seeks artists to fashion local Revolutionary heroes upon Scotch Plains hydrants. The Scotch Plains Bicentennial Committee has formed a list of people who achieved Revolutionary prominence here, and a corresponding list of appropriate locations where they should be painted upon a hydrant.

A list of heroes and appropriate locations appears on page 6. Residents are urged to get their reservations in early, by telephoning Venezia Hardware on Terrill Road to arrange for borrowing of paint kits.

Rescue Squad Cited By Rights Group

In Today's TIMES

Coach Len Meckalavage discusses Raider Football for 1975. Plus a tear-out with High School Football Schedules

Supports Open Meeting Law

At its last meeting, the steering committee of Common Cause for the 12th N.J. Congressional district adopted a resolution commending the New Jersey legislature for its passage of the open meetings bill, and calling for Gov. Byrne's signature as quickly as possible.

This act calls for open meetings of public bodies at all levels of state and local government, with adequate advance notice, and minutes containing all recorded votes to be made available to the public. Exceptions are provided for matters of personal privacy and meetings that deal with collective bargaining or other personnel matters, land purchases, and the investment of public funds. Members of Common Cause all over the state have worked for the passage of this measure since it was introduced 22 months ago by Assemblyman Byron Baer, Democrat of Bergen County. The Assembly passed it on April 7 by a 73-1 vote, and the Senate on July 14 by a 26-0 vote.

District Coordinator Harris Gilbert hailed this legislation as another significant victory in the Common Cause campaign for open and responsible government.

Common Cause is the citizens' action organization that was founded five years ago by John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in the Johnson administration. Its current membership is over 300,000 nationally and over 14,000 in New Jersey. Anyone who is interested in further information is invited to telephone Mr. Gilbert at 233-2271.

The meeting was held at the Gilbert residence at 14 Sandy Hill Rd., Westfield. The next meeting will be held at the same place on Wednesday, Sept. 17. All who are interested are cordially invited to attend.

Free Shots For Fanwood Canines

The Fanwood Board of Health has scheduled a free rabies clinic for dogs, at the Borough Garage this Saturday, September 20. Three-year rabies immunizations will be given to all dogs. No other animals will be inoculated.

The Borough Garage driveway is located on the south side of North Avenue, near the intersection of Martine Avenue.

Council Queried On Payment Of Annual \$3000 Contribution

On Tuesday night, 13 members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad appeared in uniform at the regular monthly meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council. Their spokesman, First Lieutenant Harold Hill, Junior represented them in addressing Council, seeking information on why the \$3,000 annual contribution which is customarily budgeted and given to the Squad by the Township has not yet been forthcoming.

In ensuing conversation regarding the possibilities of sexual and/or age discrimination on the Squad, Hill stated that the Squad had not been formally charged on the issue of discrimination, and that to Hill's knowledge, the Squad has not been approached by any women seeking placement as members. Hill said the only complaints or charges he has been aware of have been letters to the editor in local newspapers.

Apparently, the filing of formal charges against the Scotch Plains Squad had already taken place by Tuesday night, unknown to Squad members. Mrs. Lois Reilly, who is affiliated with the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, reported on Wednesday morning from her office in Newark that a complaint has been filed by the Director for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. The complaint was packaged, ready for mailing on Wednesday morning, and it was anticipated that it was to be served upon the Squad sometime this week.

In his complaint, the Director finds that the bylaws of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, which state that prospective members must be male and 21 years or over, are discriminatory. Furtherance of such policies subjugates women to a position which is discriminatory, and denies applicants who are female and/or over 18 years of age the opportunity of serving as Rescue Squad members in Scotch Plains.

The Scotch Plains budgetary contribution has been held up upon advice of the Township Attorney Lewis Markowitz. He has studied the bylaws of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, he said, in response to the Mayor's request for an opinion in answer to citizen complaints. Markowitz said Nick Colarusso, Captain of the Squad, had furnished him with bylaws. Markowitz cited specific rules and regulations in state antidiscrimination laws, dealing with membership in volunteer fire companies and rescue squads. These laws state that such bodies shall be open to all citizens able to perform the duties. The Division of Civil Rights treats First Aid and rescue squads under the classification of both employers and places of public accommodation in making determinations.

"It is clear that it is not proper for first aid squads to discriminate," Markowitz said, so he advised Council that it would be improper to make a donation at this time, since the money comes from public funds received from taxpayers. "It would be wrong for the township to aid and abet the Rescue Squad

in illegal acts," Markowitz concluded. He cited a similar case in Princeton, wherein the Division of Civil Rights acted last April, ordering the Princeton squad to discontinue discriminatory acts and to admit a woman.

But are the bylaws in violation? Hill told Council that the bylaws had been amended on the second Tuesday of June, 1974, deleting the word male. He said the amendments had been included, attached to the printed bylaws. Markowitz said he had never received the amendments and had been unaware they had been made.

Markowitz added that there are other requirements spelled out within the state laws with which the squad would have to comply. He did not go into detail, but mentioned one additional area of compliance - the filing of application blanks with the Township Clerk.

Mayor Griffin then stated that it is the desire of the Township Council to contribute to the Squad, and that he had just recently received comments of appreciation regarding the Squad's role here. However, the Squad must be in compliance, he said. He told Hill that if he wanted to resolve the problem, he is to sit down with the township attorney to discuss his statements that amendments have been made.

Griffin indicated that he had personally spoken to two Squad members over Labor Day weekend, asking if changes had been made to permit women members and had been told no.

"If we are in violation of the law, then how did the county of Union give us \$1,800 for new radio equipment in violation of the law?" Hill asked. He threatened that if the Squad's expenses cannot be met, through lack of funds from the Council, then service will have to be curtailed for

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Session Will Consider New Master Plan

A Public Workshop and discussion session on the subject of a new Master Plan for Scotch Plains is scheduled for Monday night, September 22. The session is not a formal hearing, nor is it a meeting at which action will be taken. Instead, the workshop has been scheduled to provide public with an opportunity for input into thinking on possible zoning revisions for the township of Scotch Plains. The workshop will be held at Park Junior High School beginning at 8 p.m.