

Preserve Teaneck Greenbelt Committee
Minutes of September 11, 2017

Attending: Donald Daume, Carol Otis, Nancy Cochran, Alan Sohn, Council Liaison, Marie Warnke, Chair,
Guest- Charles Powers

We reviewed the current status of the effort to preserve the Greenbelt. A Resolution was presented at July 6th Council meeting to place all public land on the ROSI and apply for historic preservation. The Resolution was amended twice. First to remove the parcel under contract for the billboard and second to exempt land along the eastbound side that would be needed to widen the highway to 3 lanes in both directions.

The revised resolution that came to Council at their following meeting was worded in a manner that would exempt the billboard property and all land needed to widen Route 4. The change in wording significantly changes the protection of the Greenbelt that was originally intended and it was unclear how the change was authorized.

Greenacres has been involved and is expecting Teaneck to correctly identify all public land that is and should be in the ROSI. Harsh penalties will be incurred by the Township if this is not done properly. Exempting the billboard area would be a violation as there is a deed restriction on any use other than parkland.

Not putting all of the Greenbelt in ROSI weakens the Township's position when negotiating with NJDOT for land exchange.

Alan will keep us apprised of revisions made to the Resolution. He, Dr. Pruitt and Gervon Romney-Rice will be meeting with the attorney this week.

Purchasing the Seigel & Seigel property would protect the entire Greenbelt and can be accomplished through grants and with compensation from NJDOT that would come to the Township in exchange for some of Gaylord Park to create an access lane at Belle Avenue.

The Committee will again present to Council at the September 19th meeting our position of putting all Greenbelt public land on the ROSI and register it as historical, and to purchase the Seigel property and include it in the Greenbelt. Council will also be reminded that having all the Greenbelt under ROSI puts the Township in a stronger negotiating position with NJDOT as Greenacres will then need to be a part of any agreement of land exchange or compensation.

Submitted by Marie Warnke, Chair