

Greater Kingston Civic Association

A Network of Neighbors

www.greaterkingstoncivicassociation.org

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2019, 7pm-9pm

- **In attendance**
 - **Cherry Hill Township Officials:** Mayor Cahn, Councilman Bauerle, Councilwoman Roskoph, Chief of Staff Gill, and Chief of Police Monaghan
 - **Approximately 100 residents**
- **Kingston Estates Swim Club Update**
 - Swim Club officials are negotiating with TD Bank to adjust the terms of the loan. KESC expects to be operating next year.
- **Cherry Hill Township Master Plan Update**
 - **St. Michael's Announcement:** Lisa Gess, President of the Church Council, informed neighbors that St. Michaels has applied for a variance to have 102 Chapel Avenue, former site of the Cherry Hill food pantry, rezoned back to residential (R2). Proximate neighbors will be receiving a letter soon, as required for zoning variance requests.
 - **Wording in Master Plan:** Township officials were asked to change wording in the Master Plan, which has not yet been adopted, to exclude identifying certain areas comprised of older houses as “in need of rehabilitation”, as the phrase carries negative connotations. Identifying houses only as “pre-war” or “post-war” was suggested as sufficient and acceptable.
 - **Fulfillment of previous Master Plan:** Mayor Cahn was asked about previous Master Plan items that were never fulfilled (renovation of the race track gate house, open space/park land, train depot access from the Garden State Park shopping zone).

- Mayor Cahn said that the property changed ownership and that the subsequent developer(s) filed for waivers, which were granted and relieved the requirement to fulfill the Master Plan items as originally adopted.
 - Mayor Cahn reported that train station access from the Garden State Park Shopping Center was unsuccessful as NJ Transit had opposed it.
- **Super Wawa at Barclay Farms:** Mayor Cahn was asked about the plan on file at the Cherry Hill Township Planning Department for a Super Wawa at the Barclay Farms Shopping Center.
 - Mayor Cahn said that the property developer has the right to build a gas station complex there as current zoning permits such use.
 - To resident concerns about public safety and traffic, 24/7 lighting, more fuel tanks near residential areas and questions about how to have input on any further local development, Mayor Cahn offered some suggestions on how residents can approach this and other developers to influence final project results.
 - Mayor Cahn stated that resident opposition was not a sufficient to reason to prevent development.

- **Flooding**

- Chief of Staff Gill gave an overview of the township efforts to-date to mitigate flooding and provided a timeline (see 'Kingston Drainage Project Timeline').
- Mayor Cahn said the Southern Branch of the Pennsauken Creek spans several towns, over which Cherry Hill has no jurisdiction. He said upstream dams were needed. Army Corps of Engineer reports were quoted.
- Residents reported that dredging in 2014 helped reduce water levels, and suggested that dredging may again be necessary and beneficial. Engineers from the Township were invited but not present to address questions from residents.
- 60-100 homes are being affected by flooding with increasing frequency, as they lie in the flood plain of the Pennsauken Creek.
- Flood insurance was encouraged.
- Mayor Cahn said that Township purchase of flood-prone properties would be ideal, but funds were not available to accomplish this.

- Residents were asked to clear clogged drains and keep gutter zones clear, as “abuse of drains” by residents is a flooding factor.
 - Mayor Cahn was asked about Cherry Hill’s drain-cleaning schedule. Attendees urged Cherry Hill to do more drain-cleaning in flood-prone areas.
 - Mayor Cahn stated that a meeting would be set up to plan next steps with the residents most affected. Mayor Cahn asked residents to contact his office to identify themselves as affected by flooding. Chief of Staff Gill was asked to add the flooding issue to her notes.
 - Councilman Bauerle indicated he wanted to be involved in future meetings.
- **Additional Discussion/Questions/Comments**
 - **Rt. 70:** Mayor Cahn affirmed that his administration has been against the widening of Rt. 70 west of I-295. Mayor Cahn said NJDOT plans a “Rt. 70 expansion” next year, but that he didn’t believe widening the roadway was planned.
 - **Streets paving:** Residents called for road repairs on many local streets.
 - **Storm debris:** Residents praised the quick clean-up response after recent storms.
 - **Follow-up actions:** The GKCA Executive Committee urged attendees to look for updates on the flooding problem by visiting the GKCA website www.greaterkingstoncivicassociation.org and to email the neighborhood association at GKCA@comcast.net with any additional flooding or neighborhood concerns or comments.
 - **Township Officials and attendees were thanked for their participation. The meeting was closed at 8:45pm.**