

7/18/2017 - Minutes

1. SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Chair led all assembled in a Salute to the American flag.

2. STATEMENT

"Pursuant to Section 5, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 this is to state for the record that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of regular meetings on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Building, by mailing the annual notice of regular meetings for 2017 to the News-Record and Star Ledger in December 2016 and by filing said notice in the office of the Township Clerk.

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Victor De Luca, Ms. Nancy J. Adams, Mrs. Ina Larrier, Mr. Greg Lembrich, Mr. Frank McGehee.

ALSO PRESENT: Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk, Joseph Manning, Township Administrator, Roger J. Desiderio, Township Attorney and Sonia Alves-Viveiros, Assistant Township Administrator.

ABSENT: none.

The Township Clerk read the following:

WHEREAS, Chapter 231. P.L. 1975 commonly known as the "Open Public Meeting Act," requires that all meetings of Public Bodies be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.a. provides that the Governing Body has the discretion to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation of the public at any meeting; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governing Body to comply with the provisions of this act and at the same time conduct its business in an orderly and expeditious manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood that it does hereby prohibit, except as set forth in the formal agenda, active participation in the deliberations of the Governing Body by the public and except as otherwise prescribed by law, does limit the public to observation of the discussions of the Governing Body at all its regular and special meetings.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None

4. MAYORS INTRODUCTION

Mayor De Luca gave an overview of the evening's agenda. This evening the Township Committee has a special recognition of the 4th of July Committee, then there will be a public comment. There are six (6) discussion items, the Township Committee will be discussing a review of July 4th and Maplewoodstock, looking at the recommended changes from the Planning Board dealing with residential zoning; this deals with building and lot coverage, will be considering the Highlands Preservation Resolution and did receive input from the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Green Team, talking about New Jersey Transit and the Gateway Tunnel, commercial property owners and an ad hoc advisory committee. Then the Township Committee will decide to have or to cancel the August 15, 2017 Township Committee meeting. After that there is a consent agenda including excepting bids for biodiesel (B5) Fuel, snow plowing, marketing of recyclable materials, rejecting bids for storm drainage improvement project, closing the wading

pool refurbishing contract, closing the Parker Avenue Roadway Improvement contract, awarding a contract for DeHart Park Pathway improvements, will be approving bills and claims, cancelling some expected balances on Federal and State grants and Trust Fund accounts, approve refund of tax overpayments, payments of severance to a retiring police officer, will be awarding a contract for pick-up and disposal of yard waste services and will be approving open and closed minutes of July 5th. Second public comment, then administrative reports and reports from elected officials.

Mayor De Luca made an announcement that the Township Committee has been discussing events that have occurred on July 5, 2016 and wants to announce that despite an ongoing Internal Affairs investigation by the Maplewood Police Department, the Township Committee has decided that it is now time and in the public interest to release the video and audio tapes of the events of July 5, 2016. It has been reported to the Township Committee that disciplinary actions have been taken against several Maplewood Police Officers. In order to release the tapes there needs to be a motion from the Township Committee.

Mr. McGehee, seconded by Mrs. Larrier, motion to have the Township Committee release the video tapes and audio from July 5, 2016.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None

#### Motion carries

Mayor De Luca stated that the second thing related to July 5, 2016 is that the Township Committee has hired the Consultant Firm of Hillard Heintz and this is a firm out of Illinois, and they will start working in Maplewood at the end of the month beginning of August. Hillard Heintz will be at the Township Committee's first meeting in August and will be introducing the principals that the Township Committee will be working with. Hillard Heintz will be investigating the activities that occurred on July 5, 2016 and will be issuing a report. We are assuming there will be some recommendations associated with that report.

#### 5. SPECIAL RECOGNITION - 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE

Special Recognition - 4th of July Committee

Mayor De Luca goes on to read Resolution 138-17

MAPLEWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION - JULY 4TH COMMITTEE AGE FRIENDLY EVENT

Mrs. Larrier, seconded by Ms. Adams, move the passage of resolution number 138-17.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

#### Motion carries.

The Township Committee members congratulated the 4th of July Committee on all their hard work.

Mayor De Luca stated thank you to the Tom Piscute, Chairman 4th of July Committee for everything that the 4th of July Committee did to truly honor what the Township of Maplewood was trying to achieve and that was making the 4th of July accessible for all. The 4th of July Committee put their time and the money where your mouth was and we thank you all for a great job.

Kurt Kylie, Chairman, Senior Advisory Committee, stated that he wanted to thank the Maplewood Civic Association for all the hard work they put into this event, and they put forth an incredible effort of making this year's 4th of July age friendly.

Tom Piscuite, Chairman of the 4th of July Committee, on behalf of the Maplewood Civic Association, thanked the Township Committee, Mayor De Luca and representatives for this tremendous recognition. Mr. Piscuite stated that he has to recognize Harold Gillman, Vice-Chair of the 4th of July Committee who is truly responsible for so much of the work that they do and Mike Summersgill who is on the Committee as well who happened to wear a number of hats and serves on the Senior Advisor Committee as well, and as a member of the Maplewood Senior Share who Mr. Piscuite also wants to acknowledge. Mr. Piscuite, stated that this has been a fun endeavor for the 4th of July Committee and hopefully it was noticed that they did strive to make this an all age friendly event. The 4th of July Committee is seeking public input because we serve at the pleasure of the community. If the public has ideas of making this better for encouraging more people to attend the Committee would love to hear your input and the 4th of July Committee will be making that available for the public.

6. RESOLUTION NUMBER 138-17

see above.

passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Carrie Gordon, 34 Girard Place, Maplewood, stated that she does a lot of volunteer work and does appreciate the hard work of the 4th of July Committee and wants to suggest that the Township work to make the event more inclusive. The outside of the fence tends to be primarily people of color and people with large families who would have to pay \$50, \$60 or \$70 to get their family into the event. Ms. Gordon is wondering if there is anyway to partner with South Orange in order to make this event affordable as a part of a Two Town event. Ms. Gordon would also like to challenge the 4th of July Committee to consider an animal free circus.

Mayor De Luca stated seeing no one further, closed the first public session.

8. ORDINANCE ON FINAL PASSAGE65

IL/NA ORDINANCE ON FINAL  
PASSAGE  
2865-17

ORDINANCE NUMBER

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 271 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD ENTITLED "ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS"

*" Interpretive Statement"*

(This ordinance will amend the provision regarding "For Sale Signs", et., to allow "Coming Soon" to be placed on any permitted real estate signs.)

Mayor De Luca stated that the Ordinance has been published, copies posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and copies made available to the general public in accordance with the law.

Mayor De Luca asked was there anyone who wanted to speak on this ordinance which will allow "Coming Soon" signs and also will allow some other changes in the number of riders there will be three (3) riders instead of two (2).

Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, stated that they did submit the Ordinance to the Planning Board consistent with the review provisions of the statute and did receive a memo from the Secretary advising that the Planning Board passed a resolution finding that the ordinance is consistent with the Master Plan and that the Board supports the ordinance.

Mrs. Larrier, seconded by Ms. Adams, move that the ordinance be adopted as a whole and the Clerk be directed to publish the same as a passed ordinance in the Maplewood/South Orange News-Record according to law.

Mayor De Luca, asked was there any discussion?

Ms. Adams wanted to clarify that while this permits some new wording the Township Committee met with the Real Estate community representatives about certain other things such as promotion of the realtor or the realty company instead of promotion of the property. There is no more allowance for self-promotion of the realtor or real estate company on these signs and that they are strictly for marketing the property.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

9. ORDINANCE ON FINAL PASSAGE67

NA/VD ORDINANCE ON FINAL  
PASSAGE  
2867-17

ORDINANCE NUMBER

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 257 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD ENTITLED "Vehicles and Traffic"

*" Interpretive Statement"*

(This ordinance will designate 44th Street as a one-way street with traffic flowing from East to West.)

Mayor De Luca stated that the Ordinance has been published, copies posted on Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and copies made available to the general public in accordance with the law.

Mayor De Luca indicated that this is the time to have the public hearing of 44th Street and asked if anyone who is in favor or against the ordinance to please come up now and speak.

William J. Steinbrun, 141 Jacoby Street, Maplewood, stated that his main concern is traffic safety. One of the things that has happened is now we have gotten an increase in traffic on Jacoby Street and in particular the section of Jacoby Street between 44th and Springfield Avenue and there is a lot of safety concerns. Mr. Steinbrun stated that now you have this extra traffic and you have cars not only traveling to Springfield Avenue, but you have an increase of cars both ways and it is creating a accident hazard. Mr. Streinbrun, stated that he is not against people having healthy and safe streets but what needs to be done is that the Township needs to do more before the Township makes 44th Street a permanent one-way. Mr. Steinbrun wants the Township to look at ways to improve the safety on Jacoby Street and Springfield Avenue and to make Jacoby Street safer and reduce the traffic flow.

Carla Kargo, lives on Jacoby and Harding, Maplewood, stated that she has been living there for a little over 7 years and was living there when they changed 44th Street into a one-way and was against it at that time. This traffic is not only affecting myself but people are scared to turn coming out of Bank of America and go straight across into the WaWa. People are scared to make that right turn onto Springfield because of the bump out and that you do have to make a wider turn. Secondly, the light on Springfield Avenue and Chancellor Avenue is way too long to have this traffic moving and because of the school there are cars that are double parked on those very narrow streets of Jacoby and Harding. Ms. Kargo prefers that 44th Street go back to the two-ways so that cars that don't have to go up Springfield Avenue and can easily turn down 44th Street making the commute easier to get onto the Garden State Parkway.

Don Starkey, 44th Street, Maplewood, stated that he wanted to tell the Township Committee how much the quality of life has improved on 44th Street. The speed on 44th Street is down and it is a much safer and a much better place to live. You see people walking their dogs and people with baby carriages out and there is a lot greater street life in the last two years since it has been made into a one-way street. Mr. Starkey wanted to acknowledge his neighbors concerns about the traffic issues and also wanted to thank the Township for giving him the traffic study. The main issue here is growth of traffic in Maplewood and its not 44th Street and that there are two different issues here and that one is growth and the other is 44th Street. The residents of 44th Street think it has been fantastically successful and urges the Township Committee to continue it and make the one way permanent.

Ms. Adams, seconded by Mayor De Luca, move that the ordinance be adopted as a whole and the Clerk be directed to publish the same as a passed ordinance in the Maplewood/South Orange News-Record according to law.

Mayor De Luca stated just for the record that the Township Committee did send out a letter and the Ordinance in both English and in Creole to 177 residents on Henry Place, Brown Street, Lee Court, Chancellor Avenue, Harding Street, Jacoby Street from Springfield to Boyden and 44th Street. The letter did ask if anyone wanted to submit comments and the Township Committee did receive three (3) comments that Mayor De Luca knows of. All three letters received were in favor of keeping 44th Street one-way. Mayor De Luca did receive a call at his house on July 17, 2017 from a Jacoby Street resident who said that for safety reasons he would urge the Township Committee to make 44th Street two-ways again because of the concerns he has getting out to Springfield Avenue. Additionally there were people here at our last meeting making comments. This decision to make 44th Street a one-way was part of a larger stragedy to try to address quality of life issues in the area behind Seth Boyden School. What the Township did was install speed humps on Jacoby, on Brown, on Harding and on 44th Street.

Mayor De Luca, stated that the Township is actually going back this year on Jacoby Street and fixing those speed humps to make them more effective. As part of that the Township had significant problems on 44th Street and it was recommended by both the Police Department and the Township Engineer that the Township make 44th Street a one-way. At the time there were some concerns and what the affect of WaWa would be and the affect of traffic flow in that area and the Township agreed at that time two years ago to make this a two year experiment. The Township Committee did get a report from the Engineering Office on traffic counts on Jacoby Street, Hughes Street, Harding Street, Brown Street and 44th Street. The Township Committee also has a recommendation from Paul Kittner, Township Engineer is that he recommends leaving 44th Street one-way at this time.

Mayor De Luca lastly wanted to say that he did take a look at seven (7) months of police reports from November 2016 to May 2017 and this was roughly in November and December when WAWA opened and for those who are interested in facts in that seven (7) months there were about 450 accidents total in Maplewood and roughly 100 of those accidents were on Springfield Avenue. And of those on Springfield Avenue thirteen (13) were on Springfield Avenue near the WAWA. The Mayor then enumerated the number of accidents throughout the Township as a whole and by the streets in the area of 44th Street. There were no accidents reported on Jacoby Street other than these two hit and runs. There were no accidents reported on 44th Street nor on Harding Street.

Mayor De Luca wanted to state where he is on this Ordinance and does appreciate all of the comments last meeting and this meeting and Mayor De Luca is for keeping 44th Street as a one-way and thinks that this was an experiment that the Township tried and it worked. There has been more community cohesion on that block. The Township has stemmed the problems that exist there. Mayor De Luca thinks that the testimony that there is more traffic there, and is more traffic with the school there, more traffic on Springfield Avenue now, just in general all over Springfield Avenue we are seeing more traffic. Mayor De Luca, stated that he doesn't think changing 44th Street back to two-way is the answer. The Township will talk with the Maplewood Township Engineer about the timing on the light on Chancellor Avenue and the timing of the light on Boyden and Springfield Avenues once the apartments are done. The Township will take a look at that bump out and there is signage at WAWA that vehicles are not supposed to make a left turn, and perhaps the Maplewood Police Department can put a detail there. Once you start giving tickets out people will stop doing that kind of behavior.

Mrs. Larrier stated that she would like to keep it the one-way and that the emails that the Township Committee received were in favor of keeping 44th Street one-way. Mrs. Larrier spoke to residents and was invited to come down and talk with some residents on that street and every resident that Mrs. Larrier spoke to and two (2) people who were not residents lived in the area were also in favor. They discussed the increase in the quality of life because the traffic has decreased on that street and they feel safer on the street. While Mrs. Larrier does understand the issues of safety that Mr. Steinbrun brought to the Township Committee those things can be alleviated, there are things that the Township Committee can do and it certainly doesn't necessarily mean that the street should go back to two-way because many of those issues that were brought up really were not created by the fact that 44th Street is a one-way. Mrs. Larrier's biggest concern is how the residents of 44th Street view the change and from everything that Mrs. Larrier has read and the residents she has spoken to they all view it as a positive change and that speaks volumes for Mrs. Larrier. And if the Township has to change lights and bump outs and other things so that there's safety around the area then that is what the Township needs to do, but certainly you should feel safe on your own street. Mrs. Larrier will be voting in favor of keeping 44th Street a one-way.

Ms. Adams stated that she thinks there are bigger problems here and is not convinced that changing 44th Street back to two-way would address them, and as Chair of the Engineering and Public Works Committee they will be discussing this further and getting the recommendations, with all the things that are being recommended: the timing of the lights and because it is such a huge improvement in Mrs. Adams' opinion with the construction and the opening of the WAWA that does have unintended consequences. Ms. Adams does not think that this is finished and would like the Township engineer and the Engineering and Public Works Committee to do some sort of analysis of the entire area by WAWA. Ms. Adams will be voting yes to keep 44th Street a one-way.

Mr. McGehee stated that he has heard quality of life mentioned several times this evening and to Mr. McGehee inclusive quality of life is your commute to and from work. What happened in the last couple of years, adding the WAWA as well as with Avalon Bay coming on board, along with the Maplewood Diner and other commercial properties and residential properties that the landscaping and stragedy busy behind making 44th Street a one-way street has changed. Mr. McGehee respects that the quality of life has improved on 44th Street and that is not because it is a two way street it is also because of the work that was done on the other side of the park and other amenities of the overall two-way street. Mr. McGehee's concern is the greater good of all the community not just one block and stated that he will be voting no tonight.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: Mr. McGehee.

Motion carries.

## 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 1. Township Committee Review of July 4th and Maplewoodstock events/VD

Mayor De Luca stated that all of you out there who are involved in these events and also the Township Committee is that there are pre-event meetings that occur in which the Township departments meet with the event organizer's and go through all the various stages of the event, preparations and they go department by department. At the conclusion there is another session that we have and the sessions are shared by the Township's Administrator Mr. Manning and be able to look back at the event and see what they might want to change for next year. A number of Township Committee members have some stronger comments about the Maplewoodstock, some of the activities that took place there but were also involved in the 4th of July event too. Mayor De Luca, stated that they are going to spend a little time talking about the Township Committee's observations and this will not substitute for the review that we will have with the Township department heads, this will add to it and we will see who is interested from the Township Committee in meeting during some of these post events debriefing sessions.

Mayor De Luca stated lets see if there are any comments about the July 4th event first.

Mr. McGehee stated that the 4th of July Committee does a wonderful job and obviously a great event for all of Maplewood. There was a comment made earlier that Mr. McGehee actually did disagree with which talked about the only people behind the fence were people of color and that is not necessarily the case. If you were to stand in Ricalton Square or at the Middle School you can actually see quite a diverse crowd and Mr. McGehee just wants the record to show it was not just people of color who are outside the barriers it was all people of all backgrounds. Mr. McGehee would like to find a way to make the event if possible free for all Maplewood residents and other individuals. Like Maplewoodstock this might be a free event as well. Sponsorships and donors might be considered.

Ms. Adams stated that she expressed this last year when the whole park was first fenced off and Ms. Adams feelings have not changed. For a community event closing off the whole park for the whole day just does not sit well with Ms. Adams. Ms. Adams wants to ask that the Township Committee to look at somehow first and foremost how to make this event as inclusive as possible. Residents in Ms. Adams opinion should not have to pay to get into the park for the 4th of July event. It is a public park on a holiday. Ms. Adams would be in favor of serving on a committee that looks into the event being free and inclusive.

Mr. Lembrich stated that he echoes what was said throughout the night and that the Maplewood Civic Association and the 4th of July Committee go above and beyond and do an excellent job every year on putting on a wonderful event and thinks that they deserve a big thank you and gratitude from the community for doing all that they do and for doing this on a volunteer basis. The Township needs to figure out a balance and all that in an interest to keep the magic of these events going and also make them managable and sustainable as we move forward. The fact that it has always been this way for decades and generations is not a good enough reason to perpetuate what Mr. Lembrich thinks is inequality among our residents.

Mr. Lembrich does think that the community here in Maplewood and in SOMA has reached a tipping point where excluding any of the Maplewood residents from the full benefits of citizenship in Maplewood based on their inability to pay is something that we need to really work hard to overcome and eliminate. Mr. Lembrich would like to see if we can work with the 4th of July Committee, with the Township and departments and see if there is a way we can either bring down the cost or charge for certain things and maybe not for other things and try to make this event as inclusive as possible. Mr. Lembrich would not be inadverse to finding a way for the Township either through raising sponsorships or through making this a township partnership event for the town to pay for the fireworks if that would help or make some other contribution.

Mr. Lembrich thinks that this is an important enough civic event and a traditional event in our town that he would like to see the event continued but also have everyone be included in. Mr. Lembrich does not want to take anything away from the tremendous group that puts together this event every year and works very hard and does an outstanding job.

Tom Pascuite, Chairman of 4th of July Committee/Maplewood Civic Associations, stated that he agreed with everything that was stated by the Township Committee and the work of the 4th of July Committee is to help organize the activities that have a cost. If the community comes up with another way of paying for the 4th of July Committee charges they are all ears and would love to hear about it. Mr. Pascuite stated that he did grow up in Maplewood and would have been one of the people that sat on the outside of the fence watching the fireworks as a kid. Mr. Pascuite is happy to entertain other ideas and thank you for your compliments about the 4th of July Committee. Mr. Pascuite stated that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the 4th of July pricing policy and they do look to make it as affordable as possible.

Mr. Lembrich stated that he just wanted to add that the car show this year was fantastic and was a real draw this year.

Mayor De Luca stated that he thinks that there are operational ideas that need to be gone over with the departments because we need to know did we pick up the garbage, did we have the right security for the fireworks and things like that. Mayor De Luca stated that the Township Committee will follow up with that and figure out when the meetings will be and see who is interested in attending.

Mayor De Luca stated that Maplewoodstock is in its 14th year and congratulations!!!!..... it was a wonderful event and was something that was wildly successful this year. One issue that came up was the issue around tents being put up on Friday and early Saturday.

Ms. Adams stated that the Maplewoodstock event was great and how wonderful it is and it has grown and some of the complaints that the Township Committee got were kind of impossible to address like its too big, its too popular and that no one goes there any more because its too crowded..... and those are good problems to have. But there were issues about chairs, blankets being spread out. And email that suggested selling assigned seats on a hourly basis and use the funds to pay for bleachers with seat numbers, no blankets and camping chairs. Ms. Adams, stated that doesn't say Maplewoodstock it doesn't even say woodstock and does not think it is necessarily doable for an event experience mindset. The tents on the other hand; we have to figure out and what is the allowable set up time. Ms. Adams past overall concern was about the way the park was left and Ms. Adams did take a walk around and noticed that the vendors had cleaned up much better than they had in previous years. Historic trees were not drilled into and things overall were a lot better with care being taken with driving over tree roots. Ms. Adams is really concerned about that.

Mr. Lembrich reported to the representatives who are here tonight a phenomenal event yet again this year and that this has become a Maplewood tradition and almost a signature event of what people think of when they think of Maplewood. So many people look forward to this weekend every year. The number of people was great, the weather was great and the bands were great particularly the Sunday night bands. Mr. Lembrich also thinks that there were certain things that were noticeably better this year; the vendors and people in general did a better job of taking out what they brought in to the park. The Maplewood Emergency Services adjusted to the size of the event by day. There was a much better job done on Sunday with establishing the fire lane and keeping the barrier area safer. The issues of the tents and the canopies can be discussed in the review. Mr. Lembrich added that this event gets better every year and that the comments demonstrate it. It is an amazing event and Mr. Lembrich cannot imagine it happening any where else, and it is one of the things that makes Mr. Lembrich so excited to live in Maplewood.

Mr. McGehee wants to congratulate the Maplewoodstock Committee for a wonderful event and did enjoy it more ways than one and that Mr. McGehee's daughter performed in the noon show and was also a background singer for a band on Saturday and he got to enjoy it as a Township Committee member, proud Father, and resident. Mr. McGehee also wanted to recognize residents and other residents who were there and held themselves in the greatest respect for each other and that there were no issues and no arrests for either 4th of July or Maplewoodstock this year. In regards to the tents that is an opportunity for us to improve on in terms of our communication, in terms of deciding what will be fair and in terms of the rule. Mr. McGehee stated that all in all it was a great job and does like the idea that it is free and maybe use those best practices for the 4th of July Committee as well.

Mayor De Luca stated that the issue of the fire lane and that they created the buffer from the stage was a good idea. The second night the Maplewood Fire Department redeployed their personnel so that they had people on both sides of the stage. Mayor De Luca liked the idea of reformating the vendor space being age friendly and not up on the hill. It is tough for folks to walk up that hill both up and down. For both events I guess at one point the Township Committee is going to have a conversation about tipping point that are we ever going to have too many people at these events.

Mayor De Luca, stated that the one thing about the tents that there was nothing in the policies about when you can put a tent up, nothing about what you bring in take out and that we need to make sure that those policies are in that and be quite explicit because that is where people are a little confused to what the rules are. Mayor De Luca, stated to the Maplewoodstock Committee that you don't have a big team and you pull it off and that is amazing.

Jim Roberts, Maplewoodstock Committee, stated thank you to the Township Committee for their feedback and compliments and he has been taking notes so that they can bring them back to the rest of the Committe. The Maplewoodstock Committee always has a debrief meeting a few weeks after the festival and the Committee is always looking to tweek things to make them better. The Maplewoodstock Committee looks forward to working with the Township particularly on issues of safety and did agree with some of the comments that Maplewoodstock can be better aligned on some of these issues.

Mayor De Luca wanted to talk about who will be sitting at the debriefing meetings with Maplewoodstock and the Township Committee. And for the 4th of July Committee meeting Mayor De Luca will continue to sit in at that meeting. Mr. McGehee and Ms. Adams would like to be a part of the meeting for the Maplewoodstock Committee debriefing meeting.

Mr. Lembrich reported that for next year for both the 4th of July Committee and Maplewoodstock Committee there be a Township Committee liaison.

## 2. Planning Board Recommended Changes to Residential Zoning District Bulk Regulations - dealing with building coverage and lot coverage/NA

Ms. Adams stated that the Planning Board has been discussing for a while proposed changes to residential zoning and bulk regulations. There is a big hole in the zoning regulations with regard to bulk coverage which is mostly lot coverage and building coverage and the Township does not prohibit much. There is concern about the McMansion affect and how that could change the character of our town when there are oversized buildings on undersized lots or additions. Run off and water issues also impact backyards with neighbors because there are houses where additions are being put on where a neighbor used to have a backyard on either side. Ms. Adams stated that they are proposing some changes to lot coverage. Ms. Adams thinks that this is extremely important to address and that there are recommendations from the Planning Board after having several meetings with an architect for changes to that ordinance. There may be further recommendations to this ordinance coming down the road, but do not want to hold back pending these additions. In Ms. Adams view a vote in favor of these changes would be so that we can maintain the character of Maplewood and the safety of our neighbors with regard to water run off by limiting the amount of paving or building coverage that residents can put on their lots.

Mr. Lembrich asked what will be the process for us to review and vote on this and is there a process where we need to do something and can you walk Mr. Lembrich and the public through how this is going to proceed?

Ms. Adams stated that the Planner has already given us the language and the Planner has already weighed in on this and the entire Planning Board has discussed it and voted on it and that this is their recommendation.

Mayor De Luca indicated that an Ordinance will be introduced on August 1st and voted on at the next meeting.

Mr. McGehee asked what does District R-1-7, District R-1-5 and District R-1-4 represent or mean?

Ms. Adams replied to Mr. McGehee that those are the residential zones in town.

Mayor De Luca then gave the definitions of the lot sizes.

Mr. McGehee asked can they get an idea of those zone or street names of those in particular.

Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, stated to Mr. McGehee that R-1-7 would be Claremont and South Collinwood would be R-1-5, Kendall is a R-1-5, Hilton is R-1-4. Mr. McGehee will be provided with a zoning map which will lay them all out.

Mayor De Luca agreed to authorize Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, to draft the ordinance for introduction for the August 1st Township Committee meeting.

The Township Committee all agreed.

## 3. Highlands Preservation Resolution - input from Environmental Advisory Committee and Green Team/VD

Mayor De Luca stated that there was a gentleman who came from the Highlands Preservation Coalition last meeting and gave the Township Committee a sample resolution for consideration. Mayor De Luca has shared the sample resolution with the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee and Green Team and Mayor De Luca had received their comments today that they would not necessarily recommend that the Township move forward on this. They felt that they were generally okay with the goals of open space and preserving space but the question of the pilot program in the payment in lieu of taxes is unclear of who would actually pay for that. What are the other priorities in the State? Mayor De Luca stated they think that until they have more clarity and the opportunity to get more information to Mr. McCoy and Ms. Woods that the Township Committee put this off for now.

All Township Committee members agreed to put off until they get more information.

#### 4. Update on New Jersey Transit and Gateway Tunnel Project/VD

Mayor De Luca reported that they had a very good first week and things ran pretty well with the buses being a huge success. Just on the first week, Maplewood's daily bus ridership was 275 and South Orange was 230 and Summit was 175. There were 1900 additional riders on the early morning trains to New York and there were 8000 more people who went through Hoboken. It seemed to work okay the first week and the first few days of the second week had disasters. Sadly we had someone get hit by a train in Summit and that threw off the schedule significantly. We had work being done on Valley Street which threw off the Maplewood Jitney buses. We had significant backlog at the Lincoln Tunnel which messed up the buses. We had some kinks in the coming home trains being cancelled because they did not have engineer's. There were issues of Ferry's and the Path being crowded.

Mayor De Luca stated that everytime he gets something he feeds it to Transit and that there seems to be an issue that is affecting our Broadway Performer's so that they are going in off hours and that they are not able to use the Hoboken ticket to do a transfer at Newark Broad Street. Mayor De Luca stated that he had conversation last week and will follow-up again seeing if we can get that resolved and then there are pushes for buses for the evening but it is an entirely different operation in the evening as you need bus lots where you can park buses in the evening to load people in New York Port Authority Bus Terminal as opposed to the morning where you pull up.

Mayor De Luca stated at the last Township Committee meeting had heard that the Federal Government had dropped off as a representative on the Gateway Board, a non-profit board of directors. We have heard other information that there is still a possibility of Federal Funding. There is some funding for the bridge and its about a billion dollar operation. There is a earmark that Congressman Freeland has gotten into the transportation budget for the Gateway. Mayor De Luca would suggest that the Township Committee go on record and reinforce it that Maplewood is in support of the Gateway Tunnel Project or adding additional tunnels.

Mr. Lembrich, seconded by Mr. McGehee, motion to support the Gateway Tunnel Project.

Mayor De Luca, asked were there any further discussion? None.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

#### 5. Commercial property owners Adhoc Advisory Committee/FM

Mr. McGehee stated that one voice he would like to hear more from is the Towns commercial property owners and thinks that it would be great potentially to have this Adhoc Advisory Committee. To give the Township some insight and perspective from being a commercial property owner. Mr. McGehee has invited Harold Bobrow to come up tonight and maybe say a few words regarding this idea.

Harold Bobrow, 51 Coolidge Road, Maplewood, stated that he has an idea to get some feedback from the Township Committee. First of all the Township Committee does a terrific job and that is why Maplewood has the 4th of July and Maplewoodstock and that is why people come here to live. Mr. Bobrow stated that we have issues probably very specific for commercial properties within Maplewood. What Mr. Bobrow is proposing is to create a Commercial Property Owners Advisory Committee which would be made up of people who own commercial real estate in Maplewood. The function of this would be to get brainstorming meetings together and having liaison members from the Township Committee to attend these meetings as well. Mr. Bobrow, stated that the Township would have nothing to lose.

Mr. McGehee added that initially the idea is to have this committee to play a roll in town and to become more engaged. They can be residents or not, but bring ideas and concepts to the greater community that may help enhance certain things. Mr. McGehee would like to take this back and follow-up with some more ideas.

Mrs. Larrier asked whether they own commercial property or residential property is that either one?

Mr. McGehee responded either one.

Mrs. Larrier asked then would you also be envisioning having say the owners of the Clarus and the Avalon Bay project being involved as well?

Mr. McGehee stated that he thinks that they have to be open to that because they are commercial property owner's.

Mayor De Luca commented that he was not that excited about the idea. The Township has the Maplewood Village Alliance, Springfield Avenue Partnership, and there are commercial property owners on those boards. Mayor De Luca thinks that if there are issues that are generated by commercial property owners he would like to filter them because otherwise you are just having a conversation. There are more commercial property owners who are captured in the Alliance or in the Partnership. The Township does have an ongoing relationship with the Chamber of Commerce as well. Mayor De Luca would like to take the idea of getting input from commercial property owners and challenge the Alliance and the Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce to include in their operational plan how to get that input. Maybe they ought to sponsor a breakfast or meeting or something where commercial property owner's that have some common interest can come together and talk. Mayor De Luca thinks that it would be more successful than just creating an adhoc without a clear definition of what the steps are or after that.

Harold Bobrow, 51 Coolidge Road, Maplewood, asked up to this time has any of these bodies done anything with the commercial property owner's? Do they have a sub section in each one of these boards where they do discuss issues that are very specific to people that own commercial property in Maplewood?

Ms. Adams stated to Mr. Bobrow that the Business Improvement District, Special Improvement District by statute, they have commercial property owner's on their boards. Ms. Adams agrees with Mayor De Luca that to try and funnel this through the SID's and try and get them to do it. Ms. Adams wishes that there could be more strict ordinances that address those property owner's who leave their properties vacant.

Mrs. Larrier indicated that she would agree with Deputy Mayor Adams and Mayor De Luca. Mrs. Larrier does not think adding an ad hoc committee is necessary.

Mr. McGehee stated that the take away is to recommend Mr. Bobrow go back to the commercial property owner's and see if there is engaged interest.

Mayor De Luca stated that they have done it in the past and have had separate meetings for commercial property owner's to deal with their issues.

The Township agreed not to consider the addition of an ad hoc committee.

6. August 15, 2017 Township Committee Meeting cancel or hold/VD

Mayor De Luca, stated the moment of truth..... does the Township Committee want to meet on August 15, 2017 or not?

Mayor De Luca stated let's have a motion to cancel the August 15, 2017 Township Committee meeting.

Mr. McGehee, seconded by Mrs. Larrier, motion to cancel the August 15, 2017 Township Committee meeting.

The Township Committee stated all in favor and a big yes.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier, Mr. Lembrich, Mr McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

The Township Clerk (who was smiling) was directed to provide the public notice to cancel the August 15, 2017 Township Committee meeting according to law.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lembrich, seconded by Mrs. Larrier, move to adopt the consent agenda.

Mayor De Luca, asked were there any discussion? None.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Larrier except for the minutes of July 5, 2017, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT - ANY SUBJECT MATTER

Mayor De Luca stated seeing no one closed the second public comment period.

13. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

No reports.

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, stated that the Farmer's Market is doing well and that business is up considerably since it has moved to the new location and the parking is just so amazingly easier.

Ms. Sonia Alves-Viveiros, Assistant Township Administrator, stated that August 6th is Farmer's Market Week and Jersey Fresh is promoting and giving out prizes. There was an email blast that went out to let people know that if they use the #maplewoodfarmersmarket they would win some fun prize. They are going to try and do something interesting that week also here in Maplewood just to promote it.

Mayor De Luca, stated to Ms. Alves-Viveiros, Assistant Township Administrator, do you have any sense of their Snap participation, the food-stamp (EBT Card)?

Ms. Sonia Alves-Viveiros, Assistant Township Administrator, stated that it is used and Ms. Alves-Viveiros does get calls.

Mayor De Luca asked that one thing he was curious about was that if the move (location change) changed the use of that or if the Township was still capturing those customers?

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, stated that they will find that out or if they increase even. The Farmer's Market is on Monday's from 2 pm to 7 pm over on Springfield Avenue and it goes until November 20, 2017.

Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, no report.

Ms. Fritzen, Township Clerk, stated that the Township Committee's next meeting August 1, 2017 is also National Night Out and we start everything an hour later and that means that closed session begins at 8 pm and the Township Committee regular agenda meeting begins at 8:30 pm. That puts a time change in your guest for Closed Session on August 1, 2017.

Mayor De Luca stated that the Township Committee is going to start closed session at 7:30 pm and open session will remain at 8:30 pm. Mayor De Luca urges everyone to attend the National Night Out which is held at DeHart Park.

Ms. Fritzen, Township Clerk, stated she did send to the Township Committee who also acts as the Local ABC the information on a upcoming transfer. It is the M160 liquor license (Plenary Retail Consumption License) which means it is going to be both a person-to-person transfer and a place-to-place transfer. That license is currently in pocket.

Ms. Adams asked what does M160 mean?

Ms. Fritzen, Township Clerk, stated to Ms. Adams, that was the original person it was transferred to from Mr. Kern to M160. Ms. Fritzen, Township Clerk, indicated that a hearing will be held following the return of all applicant record checks, publications, and other requirements.

#### 15. REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mrs. Larrier, no report.

Ms. Adams reported that from Engineering & Public Works Committee and the Township's Engineer she had forwarded a memo to Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, that we do have some streets in town on the list in the ordinance that says "no parking 5 feet from a driveway" on certain streets in town. They are adding to that list with South Pierson and East Cedar Lane, because both are narrow and both have residents who have experienced difficulty getting in or out of their driveway's because the streets are narrow. So they will still have two sides of the street for parking and signs will be installed once the Township passes that ordinance.

Mrs. Larrier asked Ms. Adams if the Township be stripping the curb as well?

Ms. Adams answered no.

Mayor De Luca stated that they will be putting a little line in the street as well for safety.

Mr. Lembrich reported from the Public Safety Committee that they are finalizing the Operational Order concerning our welcoming community resolution and that this was discussed last week in the Public Safety Committee. Chief Ciminio received some final comments and reviewed some additional changes that had come in from the Prosecutor's Office. Today the Township received a proposed final draft of that from the Chief of Police and barring some unexpected issues Mr. Lembrich's expectations is that the Township will be able to get that out to the media and members of the public and distribute that this week.

Mr. Lembrich, stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow night and one of the issues is going to be discussion about fixing up the tennis courts and also potentially installing a new basketball court at Maplecrest Park and that they may need to call upon the Township Engineer to do some additional drawings to figure some things out. Once we have a proposal in addition to doing discussion here at the Township Committee meetings, the Recreation Advisory Committee will also go back to either the Hilton Library or somewhere else in the Maplecrest Park community to get feedback from the residents. Mr. Lembrich stated that they would really like to apply for matching funds or other grants through Green Acres and that will help them offset some of the costs that would be associated with these improvements or additions.

Mayor De Luca asked Mr. Lembrich about a basketball court in the pool parking lot and is that something that the Recreation Advisory Committee has talked about?

Mr. Lembrich stated that it is, but not in a positive way.

Ms. Adams added that the biggest issue is that we don't have a regulation basketball court in town and Maplecrest Park doesn't have enough room for a full regulation basketball size court. That is why they were looking at the very end of the pool lot or either where the first aid squad is or behind it.

Mr. Lembrich stated that one thing that we need to consider is we would be taking land that is not currently Green Acres and that we would have to make it Green Acres in order to get the funding and it is something that we would have to consider.

Mr. McGehee announced that the Maplewood Middle School Summer Backpack Pals Pilot Program has successfully launched last Friday. There were several backpacks picked up for our youth in need of food. Mr. McGehee would like to personally recognize Drew Dixon, David Wagner, Mrs. McGehee for successfully getting this pilot program off the ground. Mr. McGehee stated for those Maplewood residents who have youth children in the Middle School and were part of the program during the Fall and the Spring but have not signed up for the program you still have an opportunity this Summer. You can reach out to Beth Giladi at [bgiladi@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:bgiladi@somsd.k12.nj.us) and Beth's phone number is (973) 378-7660 ext. 3032.

Mr. McGehee indicated that he will be at Able Baker 10 am on Saturday for his office hours.

Mayor De Luca stated that we are in the process of talking to business owner's about joining the Green Business Program and this is sponsored by the Township Environmental Advisory Committee. They have a letter that is being distributed and an intern going to different businesses in the Village and on Springfield Avenue and around town. On Saturday morning two Maplewood businesses will be recognized.

Mayor De Luca stated that they talked about age friendly initiatives and would like to work with the Township Clerk Elizabeth J. Fritzen, and Cathy Rowe who is the head of SOMA Two towns for all ages to revise the Townships Event application form to ask a specific question as to how the event will be age friendly. Cathy Rowe can be added to the distribution list as Ms. Fritzen coordinates all Township events.

Mayor De Luca gave an update on the lead paint in the schools issue. The Township has been working with the School System. Mr. Roe, Health Officer, has identified a Doctor in South Orange who accepts Medicare and New Jersey Family Care Plan and also a qualified health center in West Orange that will help us with students with families that are limited in income or have no health insurance. The first recommendation is to consult your own primary care physician.

Mayor De Luca stated lastly, this afternoon the Township opened up the Bike Fix-It apparatus over at Maplecrest Park and its very cool. Its a pump that actually has a bike rack that you put your bike on and it has tools on wires that you can do all this on. The Maplewood Police were there distributing free helmets, and registering bicycles. There also was a representative from a bike shop from Millburn.

#### 16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 10:05 p.m. To meet again on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 8:30 PM at the Maplewood

Police and Court Building, 1618 Springfield Avenue, Maplewood, N.J. (One (1) hour later due to National Night Out)