

**BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2014
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

The meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:06 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. The following statement was read by Borough Administrator Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding annual notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of annual notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council members Cohen, Handerhan, Miller, Morley, Napoli

Also Present: Borough Administrator Reibrich, Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Esq.

Absent: Council President White

1. 2013 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-

Council discussed the results of the bid for the road project.

Councilman Napoli asked questions regarding Borough Engineer Avakian's original estimates for the project and pointed out that all of the costs of the bids were very close to each other.

Mayor Nohilly stated that there were two options. The first would be to add additional funding for the project and include Staffa Street. The second option would be to approve the bid as it is and include Staffa Street as the first item in the next road project.

2. TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Council discussed the options regarding the tree protection ordinance.

Council made comparisons between ordinances proposed, so far, by Interlaken and the current ordinance used by Ocean Township.

Council discussed the allowances for tree removal and permit requirements.

Council also discussed permit fees and penalties.

Councilman Napoli stated that Ocean Township used to have a very restrictive tree ordinance, but it was not manageable from a government point of view. Ocean Township had to alter the ordinance.

Councilman Cohen stated that Interlaken should follow the Ocean Township ordinance. Ocean Township has been through the process.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the original ordinance came about at the time when there was a large real estate turn over in the Borough. New owners were cutting trees in large numbers. The intent of the ordinance was to prevent clear cutting of properties and the protection of trees.

Mayor Nohilly stated that Ocean Township had a very restrictive ordinance and has gone through all of the problems. They have now redone their ordinance. It seems logical to follow Ocean Township.

Councilman Handerhan feels that five trees does not seem too restrictive, but does prevent clear cutting.

Councilman Morley stated that he feels that a homeowner should be able to do what they want to the trees on their property. Councilman Morley feels the government reach is too much. Councilman Morley stated that his opinion has nothing to do with trees but with the liberties of what people can do on their own properties.

Councilman Cohen stated that he feels a homeowner should be able to do what they wish on their property, but not on the tree lined street.

Mayor Nohilly stated that Interlaken has a community forest canopy. If everyone cuts all the trees on their property, that goes away.

Council had additional discussion regarding fees and limits. How the limits would be monitored was also discussed.

Councilman Miller suggested that a “no fee, no approval” permit be used for tracking purposes.

Costs of permits and whether a professional survey would be required for the permit were reviewed.

Council put the ordinance in the hands of Borough Attorney Shaklee to generate an ordinance using items discussed during the workshop based on Ocean Township’s current ordinance.

3. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new business.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

Liz Brown, 718 Bendermere Avenue, asked about the letter that Councilman Napoli sent to Borough residents regarding public participation at Borough meetings.

Councilman Napoli stated that he had a previous discussion with Ms. Brown where he stated his belief that Council should be reaching out more to the residents and provide them with more of an opportunity to participate in the meetings. Councilman Napoli stated that Councilman Miller’s remote attendance is working out for him and he would like to include the public in the same way.

Mayor Nohilly stated that Council has not had the opportunity to discuss the subject, but that he is not sure there is a benefit. Residents already have several options to get the information about meetings. Residents could attend the meeting, read the meeting minutes online and they could listen to the meeting via a digital file that can be sent through email. Residents could also go to Borough Hall to listen to the recording there.

Councilman Cohen expressed concern that Councilman Napoli did not follow procedure when sending his letter to residents. Councilman Cohen felt it should have been put on the agenda.

Mayor Nohilly stated that he contacted Councilman Napoli. Mayor Nohilly stated that it is not something that Councilman Napoli is bringing to Council. It is a Bob Napoli initiative.

Councilman Morely stated that Councilman Napoli supports what Councilman Napoli is doing. Councilman Napoli is using his own time and effort to bring this issue to the residents.

Ms. Brown asked to hear Council’s opinion on the subject.

Mayor Nohilly stated that this issue has never been discussed by Council. It is a Bob Napoli initiative. When and if it comes to Council, it will come in a different format.

Councilman Napoli told Mayor Nohilly he could always put it on the agenda, but it is correct that it is his own personal initiative.

Ms. Brown stated that, whatever the method, she feels communication to the town must be improved.

With no additional public comment, the Mayor closed the floor.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments, Councilman Handerhan made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cohen and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilman Miller	Councilman Morley	Councilman Napoli	Councilman Cohen	Councilman Handerhan
Motion to Approve							
Motion to Second							
Approved			X	X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/Recuse							
Absent/Excused		X					

 Lori Reibrich
 Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk
 Date Approved: _____