

**BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2019
7:00 P.M. BOROUGH HALL**

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Borough Clerk Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President White, Council members Butler and Watson

Absent: Councilwoman Horowitz, Councilman Fama and Councilwoman Maloney

Also Present: Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee and Borough Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich

1. **PROPOSING 2020 GENERAL BOROUGH PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS**

Mayor Nohilly opened the discussion regarding 2020 general Borough property improvements including the lakefront and the park. An open space grant application will also be discussed though no decisions will be made at this meeting.

Mayor Nohilly stated that, as everyone knows, when the town was founded almost 100 years ago the Borough was basically positioned with the lake being the most important feature of the town. The lake was very active, where everyone went boating and took out canoes for their leisure time. There are several Borough owned properties along the lake. Back at the turn of the century, through the twenties and thirties, everything was clear cut and manicured, but since has become more naturalized. There is the Windermere Cove that some call the Boat Launch. Nothing has been done in that area in years. There is no structure or anything to put boats on. There are no benches or tables. No one is supposed to leave anything there, but there are currently boats and benches that people have brought and chained to trees. A few residents have approached Mayor Nohilly asking for a better system and to be allowed to leave kayaks and canoes. There have been requests for stands. The Borough also has bulkheads on Windermere Avenue. They have not been used and are overgrown. They were used for fishing. They are Borough property and are currently in a naturalized state. One resident along Bridlemere Avenue decided to take it upon themselves and created terraced steps on the lake bank going to the lake. They were planning on putting slate steps. The Borough had to stop them, as it is Borough property. There can't be residents creating features on Borough property, but it is not a bad idea to have access to the lake. Maybe points of access or steps to the lake should be considered to remind everyone that we do live in a special place surrounded by the lake.

Council President White noted that the area near Bridlemere Avenue is currently used for fishing but questioned the Borough's liability when creating these amenities and encouraging lake use.

Borough Attorney Shaklee stated that it must be decided how the money is spent and what facilities would be available but there is general immunity, unless a job is done negligently. Though it has not been researched, Borough Attorney Shaklee thinks it would not be a problem, as long as it is done correctly and maintained.

Councilman Watson would like to look at costs but would like to see a launch.

Council President White questioned, whether DEP/CAFRA approvals would be necessary. Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich stated that creating lake access would require DEP approvals. Mayor Nohilly stated that DEP permits are obtained to do trimming along the lake yearly and does not see any problem getting permits.

Council continued with a brief discussion regarding creating lake access including available Borough owned locations and the viability of these locations for use.

Councilman Watson stated that it has been 11 years since the last survey regarding park improvements. At the time there was a steering committee. The response that the tennis courts be improved and to redo the playground was extremely high. The current Recreation Committee would like more accessibility and more enhancements to the park as well.

Councilman Watson stated that the key drivers to resurvey the Borough is to get up to date resident feedback. Councilman Watson would like to present a variety of potential changes or enhancements to

reflect diverse resident interests, improve data accuracy using a Likert scale to enable Council to make a more informed decision for any type of future investment in the park.

Mayor Nohilly stated that he does not feel a steering committee would be necessary at this time. The decisions can be made by Council.

Councilman Watson noted that there is interest in allowing dogs in the park, though there is a Borough ordinance that does not allow dogs in the park. Borough Attorney Shaklee noted that the ordinance can be changed.

Council continued the discussion regarding adding a tot lot, which was one of the items that received a positive response on the previous survey, as well as a walking path. The path would also allow strollers to get to the tot lot.

Council discussed installing padded rubber and rubber mulch options at the playground.

Councilman Watson also stated that there has also been interest in the super social, fast growing sport of pickle ball and some resident fathers would like to see the baseball infield improved so that they can run practices in town.

Mayor Nohilly stated that once the results for the survey have been received, Council can review them and decide financially what can be done. Normally grants are done on a matching basis. There is no scenario where everything is going to be done at once.

Councilman Watson stated that it is an awesome park. With some enhancements it would be more functional for families and usage would be increased.

Mayor Nohilly stated that a workshop would be set up to review the proposed survey.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich stated that generally speaking Open Space Grants are granted through Monmouth County Parks. The deadline to apply is September. There is a process for the grant. It would be good to design over the summer and have the public hearing prior to September.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich noted that acceptance of the grant funding requires an agreement for an easement signed with the County that the space would be in public use in perpetuity. Any future changes regarding the use of the space would require a petition to the County.

Borough Clerk/Administrator stated that she has spoken to Borough Engineer/Planner Avakian who will assist the Borough in the process. Borough Engineer/Planner Avakian has recently worked on similar projects in Deal, Allenhurst and Spring Lake.

Council President White stated that the survey could be done, the money can be put into the 2020 budget and the grant can be applied for. It does not have to wait until September of next year.

Mayor Nohilly gave details as to how the previous survey in 2008 was administered as well as response results. The response rate was 49%. The committee recommended to Council any item with a 50% or more majority vote. There was an option to add comments. Comments were compiled. The tennis courts were done. That was the most wanted feature.

2. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Marty Martino, 1600 Brian Avenue, Ocean Township stated that he was in attendance to request that the Interlaken Council adopt a resolution to the Deal Lake Commission to request that they record and televise their meetings. Mr. Martino stated that he has sent an email to all the Deal Lake Mayors to also adopt this resolution as well. It is very important as residents, businesses and property owners have a vested interest in the operation of Deal Lake. Many seniors do not like to go out or drive after dark. Attending the meeting may also be difficult for handicapped or physically challenged residents or those who have other commitments and cannot attend. There are important and ongoing community activities pertaining to the lake such as the lake clean up and special projects such as the rain garden project which would be of interest to all.

Mr. Martino stated that he made the request to the Mayor of Ocean Township.

Mr. Martino stated that his viewpoint is that the latest problems with the lake have been identified 12 years ago and not much has been done to clean up the water contamination, flooding and the leads being filled up with dirt. After 12 years the flume is finally being electrified.

Mr. Martino provided Council with a sample resolution and noted the costs of recording the meeting would be approximately \$900 per year. Both Asbury Park and Ocean Township televise their Council meetings.

Mr. Martino suggested that televising the meetings would be a good way to monitor the progress of the \$500,000 flume project rather than relying on others relaying the information. It would be beneficial to the community for the meetings to be televised.

Mayor Nohilly thanked Mr. Martino for his time and dedication to Deal Lake and noted that the Borough shares his concerns. The Borough was speaking at the beginning of the meeting regarding the importance of the lake and how to encourage residents to use and appreciate the lake. Mayor Nohilly state that the Council would not be adopting a resolution for Deal Lake to televise their meetings.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the recording is not legally required, and the Deal Lake Commission is an autonomous Commission. The Borough pays into the Deal Lake Commission, but it will be left to the Commission to make the decision whether or not to televise the meetings. It would be presumptuous to propose a resolution for another separate entity, who does not technically report to the Borough to tell them to televise their meetings. The Council does not even televise their meetings. Mayor Nohilly stated that he has had discussion regarding this matter, and he does not know where the Commission is netting out.

Council President White and Mayor Nohilly discussed whether this topic warrants a full Council discussion on the matter.

Mr. Martino stated that this matter is very important to him and feels the Deal Lake Commission and the Commission appointees for each municipality should know the views of Council.

Mayor Nohilly stated that he does not feel comfortable with not allowing the Deal Lake Commission to come their own decision of their own entity.

Mike Mulhaul, 101 Grassmere Avenue, suggested an upgrade of walkway through the arboretum.

Mr. Mulhaul questioned docks along the lake. Mayor Nohilly noted that some houses have maintained historical riparian rights, but that is as much as he knows. Mr. Mulhaul noted that Allenhurst just put in a large, sturdy boat ramp.

Roger Hanke, 312 Buttermere Avenue, asked Council to consider adding lines to the existing tennis courts so that they can be used to play pickle ball at an estimated cost of \$500. Mr. Hanke stated that the sport has increased in popularity and has a widespread appeal.

Andrea Sickles, Pickle Ball Ambassador, stated that pickle ball is a very social sport and can be played by all ages. Ms. Sickles noted that lines required for pickleball can be added to the existing tennis court and be light enough not to bother the tennis players. It is an up and coming sport.

Mayor Nohilly noted that the timing of the request is good, as it coincides with the distribution of the park use survey.

With no additional public comment, the floor was closed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments from the Governing Body, Councilman Fama made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Butler and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Butler	Councilman Watson	Councilwoman Maloney	Councilman Fama
Motion to Approve							
Motion to Second							
Approved		X		X	X		
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused			X			X	X

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Clerk/Administrator