

Working/Special Meeting
January 25, 2005

Meeting began at 7 pm. All Commissioners were present except Kathy MacDonough. Diana McWilliams also attended.

Complaint 04-06 regarding the spring on Mr. Bouno's property and drainage onto neighboring properties and the street was discussed. The Commission decided to send a letter to Mr. Bouno asking him what his plan was to address this situation. Scott will handle.

Complaint 04-12, regarding water draining off the businesses 99 Beeson Rd. into neighboring property, was discussed. Rep. Diana McWilliams reported that the State Water and Soil Conservation Board is involved and that she is working with NCC engineers to try to resolve the issue. She will be discussing the matter with John Cartier, NCC Councilman for Bellefonte.

Scott again urged the Commission to consider a town attorney on retainer to handle problem residents/property owners. Dave is researching pricing with another attorney and will report at the next Town Meeting.

Terry reported that Diana McWilliams and John Cartier offered to meet with the Commission and town people to discuss Bellefonte's legislative and special service priorities. He will report back on a date and post it. He said that he would be developing an agenda for this Special Meeting and asked the Commissioners to get back to him with Agenda items prior to the meeting.

Terry reported that the Delaware League of Local Government web site has been updated with Bellefonte's current information and contact list.

Dave reported that he was called by DelDot and that they told him that they would be sending ballots out shortly to residents of streets that were included in the traffic calming plan, including Rodman, Beeson, Bellefonte Ave., Brandywine Blvd., Prospect Ave., Highland, Fairview, and Marion Ave.

Diana McWilliams told us about many legislative issues that she is following and concerned about, including the DNRC permit applications applied for by DuPont Edgemoor to change their recipe for titanium dioxide, as well as their request to "cap off" a landfill of toxic material that is being stored at Edgemoor. She also spoke about the proposed BP liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal proposed for the New Jersey shore across from Claymont. She explained that the issue is being reported on extensively in the News Journal. She expects that DNRC will approved the permit, but that construction might be delayed for up to four years. She said that the terminal would not offer any substantial longterm employment and that it is not likely to benefit Brandywine Hundred, and poses a significant environmental threat and the threat of catastrophe to Northern Delaware.

Diana explained that much of her \$300,000 discretionary transportation money has already been committed by Rep. Ennis before he left office. There are some small expenditures that she could make relative to directional signage. We asked her to investigate the cost and possibility of two directional "Caesar Rodney" signs welcoming people to Bellefonte, one on Philadelphia Pike at Marion and one at Brandywine at Edgemoor Road. She said she would report back at our next meeting.

She also said that she would like to work together with New Castle County to address the stormwater sewer and underground drainage issue in Brandywine Hundred. As she explained it, Bellefonte has two storm water outlets that are not connected to others constructed over the years by New Castle County. The problem is, however, that underground "Brandywine watershed" is passing through Bellefonte and keeping the groundwater levels very high, particularly in a wet year like this one. As north Wilmington developed, the County kept adding onto the stormwater system as development moved toward Concord Pike. This system can no longer adequately handle the drainoff from north Wilmington, so this subterranean water is passing under Bellefonte and the surrounding communities. It is the reason why so many basements in the area are wet. She is hoping that the State and the County can work together to develop a plan to resolve this problem.

She also reported that she was introducing a bill mandating that the sale of the Weldin property through open bids that would assure historic preservation. In this scheme, groups would submit bids and the plans for restoration and preservation as part of their bid on the property. This would allow the state to sell the property but ensure that the building would be saved.

Scott asked her if resolutions passed by the Bellefonte Town Commission would be useful to her in the passage of state legislation. She encouraged us to pass resolutions that would assist her in gaining support for key legislation, particularly regarding the State's decisions about the BP LNG terminal.

New Business

Terry requested that we add fire trucks speeding when returning from fires to the Complaint log.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.