

**TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE
JOINT PLANNING BOARD
October 28, 2020
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Approved 11/11/20

ADEQUATE NOTICE STATEMENT:

In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the River Vale Municipal Office.

The Planning Board saluted the flag.

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ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Robert Fortsch	Vice-Chairman
Scott Lippert	Chairman
Matthew Ross	
Robert Adamo	
Peter Wayne	
Susan Vaccaro	
John Puccio	

Also Present:

Marc Leibman	Board Attorney
Christopher Statile	Board Engineer
Maria Haag	Land Use Administrator
Caroline Reiter	Planner

Absent:	Glen Jasionowski	Class I-Mayor
	John Donovan	Councilman
	Gregory Lowe	

APPLICATION

Dharam and Jeet, LLC - Block 1719 Lot 5.01 - 209 Rivervale Road - Bulk / Use Variance

Carried to November 11, 2020

MINUTES

September 30, 2020

A motion by Mr. Fortsch, seconded by Mr. Adamo to approve the minutes of September 30, 2020; on roll call vote, all those eligible voted yes, the motion carried.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Carolyn Reiter, Planner reported that the Township is preparing and adopting an Open Space Recreation Plan that will become part of the Master Plan and is a requirement by the NJDEP. The Townships last report was prepared in 2005. One of the requirements of the DEP is public participation in order to get public input on what people think about parks, open space and recreation in the Township.

The pandemic has stalled many of these types of discussions. The Township has held its two required published meetings. A public hearing for adoption will be held on November 11, 2020.

The plan will include updated Open Space and Recreation Mapping as well as an inventory of Township active and passive recreation and County owned recreation and the Board of Education properties. Also, the "needs analysis" recommendations and recommendations going forward.

There is minimal Open Space available in River Vale therefore, focus will be on improving what we have; maintaining, improving and connecting where we can.

There will be a discussion of any property should there be funding available an opportunity available and/or need some of those properties might be named solely because if they are included in the plan, seven or eight maybe ten years from now if one of those properties is available and there is an opportunity and it's in the plan, the plan doesn't have to be revised as it is already approved and authorized by the town.

If anyone hears of someone with information about parks we would like to hear from them. The information we are getting from Administration and the town's Recreation Director is very positive.

Mr. Puccio asked if this has anything to do with converting current fields and multi-purpose fields as well. Ms. Reiter responded that it can be included in recommendation and consideration. She referred to one field in town with multiple use. Things like that are being done and recognized. Maintenance and taking care of things properly is important.

Mr. Lippert commented that we are talking about tweaking what we have and not requiring more land for open space. Ms. Reiter replied that there will be a few properties recommended for consideration should the need arise. River Vale has been progressive and pro-active; it has a wide variety of different types of recreation. Mr. Lippert added that the town has done a good job with sports. We've done our legal obligation. Next meeting will be a formal presentation at a public meeting.

Ms. Reiter will distribute a PDF of the plan to the members. Our next discussion will be a Reexamination Report that works for the town.

Mr. Adamo commented that the Hackensack River runs behind his property. When he purchased about fifteen years ago, there were kayakers and it doesn't take place anymore because the open space of the river has a lot of down trees. It was pretty normal back in 2005, 6, 7 and 8 to see them. We have tried to have the river cleared of trees but it seems to be a big deal; half the river is in Old Tappan and half of it in River Vale. From an open space standpoint it was an amenity that was used years ago along with fishing. But now there are a lot of obstructions. Mr. Statile commented.

Ms. Vaccaro stated that there is a proposal to add a miniature golf course at the River Vale Country Club and she asked if any other sports were considered for the town like tennis courts. Ms. Reiter commented and responded.

Mr. Lippert Opened the Meeting to the Public

No Public Comment

The meeting was closed to the public.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Kokowski
Recording Secretary