

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2022**

Mayor Mary Jane Canose called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom. Present were Council Members Jay Ambelang, Diane Greenfield, Jena McCredie, Chad McQueen, Al Ribeiro, and Christine Zamarra. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Tom Czerniecki, Administrator, and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk.

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News and Courier News, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 27, 2021.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Downtown Bernardsville Events for 2022, Olivia Manning of Downtown Bernardsville discussed upcoming events for 2022 as follows:

**Downtown Bernardsville events & fundraisers**

March 9 - Celebration of Business (networking for local businesses) @ Osteria Morini

June 5 - Bernardsville Car Show

June/July - Drive for Bernardsville Golf Tournament

September 18 - I Love Bernardsville 5K & Walk

November 26 - Small Business Saturday (Holiday Gift Guide Release Date)

December 3 - Holiday Parade

December 1 through 23 - Holiday Lights Tour & Competition

January 15 - 29 (2023) - Restaurant Week

**Downtown Bernardsville Partnership with Recreation**

April 9 – Easter Eggstravaganza (Tickets on sale March 1)

June 29 - Summer Movie (at Bernardsville Center as Drive In)

July 6, 13, 20 - Summer Movies @ Bernardsville Pool (Free)

Summer - Family Fun Day

October 8 - Haunted History Tour (Tickets on Sale September 1)

October 29 - Trunk or Treat & Costume Contest

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. McQueen moved approval of minutes from December 27, 2021, January 3, 2022, and January 10, 2022. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**OPEN SESSION**

Johanna Wissinger, Environmental Commission Chair, asked Olivia Manning if she could arrange to have a table for the Environmental Commission so they could do either education or

public outreach at some of the Downtown Bernardsville events. Ms. Manning said yes and suggested that Ms. Wissinger join their email list so that she's aware of when the forms and announcements go out for the events.

Mindy Shaltry, Old Army Road, asked for consideration of sidewalks between Mullens Lane and Anderson Hill Road. She said the reasoning is for children's safety. She said she has two children who are eight years old and five years old and next year they'll both be going to Bedwell School. She said would like to have a future where she would be comfortable with them walking to Bedwell. She said she notices a great amount of pedestrian traffic on her road, and said all of the surrounding streets have sidewalk infrastructure and her street is the one street that's heavily trafficked and it doesn't have sidewalks to connect to this part of town. She said sidewalks at that part of Old Army Road would be a step forward in our goal of making the town more walkable.

Amanda Modale, Old Army Road, shared the same concerns as Mindy Shaltry. She said she also has a young child and they are in the walking zone to all three schools (Bedwell, Bernardsville Middle School, and Bernards High School). She said for the 13 years that her child enrolled in the town schools, it makes it very concerning as a parent to not be able to allow him to safely to connect to those schools.

Mr. McQueen responded and said one of the things that will be discussed at next week special council meeting is council priorities for the coming year, one of which is a discussion about public works, safety, and walkability of the town. He said there needs to be a process we put in place for assessing and then prioritizing topics such as this one because he feels council as a whole generally believes that these are all good things that need to happen. He said we're going to discuss the prioritization of how we best move some of those things forward over the coming months and years.

Chad Rybka, Old Army Road, supported the previous comments made on the topic of sidewalks. He said he has an eight year old and a ten year old, one is in Bedwell and one in Middle School, and they're encouraging them to walk from school. He said there's sidewalks on that route up until Old Army Road and it's concerning as a parent to have to instruct them to cross the road and face traffic.

Tom Brady, Old Army Road, said he is an architect and engineer. He has been a longtime resident and offered to help with sidewalks about 15 years ago. He said about two years ago, he spoke to John Macdowall about this topic again and is trying to get involved and help out. He said he would be seeing it from a technical eye and realizes it can be complicated, but at the same time thinks it would be worth it. He said he agrees with the previous comments and feels it would be good for pedestrian safety, circulation for storm water management control, aesthetics, as well as connecting all the roads together throughout the town.

Eva Bostek Brady, Old Army Road, agreed with the prior comments made earlier regarding sidewalks on Old Army Road. She said her family has wanted sidewalks for a long time as

they've raised their kids walking them to school without the sidewalks. She said when she walks her dog it is sometimes difficult with all the cars racing by during the morning and evening commute. She said trying to walk on the side of the road and into people's yards to avoid the cars is dangerous.

Mr. Czerniecki said the first thing we would need to evaluate is the status of ownership across all the properties. Also to determine if the borough actually has an easement or right-of-way in which we could actually do a project. He said once that's determined, then we would do a preliminary engineering review to talk about things like slopes and drainage. He said based on that we would start thinking about budgeting, for example, if we have to pay to acquire easements.

Mayor Canose said hopefully we'll start addressing this next week. She said we have a couple of sidewalks on the list and we'll add this to it. She thanked the residents for coming and taking the time to bring this to council's attention.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

#### **ORDINANCES (Public Hearing)**

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on Ordinance #2022-1907, **CONCERNING NOTICES REQUIRED FOR PLANNING BOARD AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HEARINGS AND AMENDING SECTION 4-7 OF THE BOROUGH LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ENTITLED "HEARINGS: PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED"**. Hearing no comments or questions, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing.

Mr. McQueen moved to pass this ordinance on final reading and adopt as published. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on Ordinance #2022-1908, **GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY.**

Hearing no comments or questions, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Ms. Greenfield moved to pass this ordinance on final reading and adopt as published. Mr. McQueen seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

#### **ORDINANCES (Introduction) - None**

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**#22-26**

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

- #22-27        AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN THE 2022 RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY**
- #22-28        AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI, & JACOBS**
- #22-29        AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR OEM COORDINATION TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ST. BERNARDS CHURCH**
- #22-30        APPROVING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS**
- #22-31        AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION RESERVES**
- #22-32        SETTING RECREATION FEES**
- #22-33        AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TOPOLOGY LLC FOR 2022 GENERAL REDEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
- #22-34        AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TOPOLOGY LLC FOR A PRELIMINARY REDEVELOPMENT INVESTIGATION OF THE PALMER PROPERTY, BLOCK 125, LOTS 1, 2, AND 3**
- #22-35        AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR OEM COORDINATOR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- #22-36        AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING AND FOR THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO AMEND THE BUDGET AND CERTIFY THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

Regarding Resolution #22-26, Mr. Ribeiro asked about two payments on the bill list. One payment to the Township of Randolph for the Morris County Co-op and another payment to Jesco, Inc. Mr. Czerniecki said Jesco, Inc. was for a new loader for the Road Department. He said the Township of Randolph is the lead agency for the Morris County Co-op Pricing Council. The Borough is a member of the Co-op and the payment on the bill list is our membership dues.

Regarding Resolution #22-34, Mr. McQueen asked if the contract with Topology was to investigate if the Palmer property is an area in need of redevelopment. Mr. Czerniecki said it was for that purpose.

Ms. McCredie moved to adopt Resolutions #22-26 to #22-36. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Mayor's Update,** Mayor Canose said on January 12<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Incident Command System (ICS) 402 mandatory training for elected officials. It is a standardized management concept for emergencies, crisis and disasters. The Somerset County Governing Officials monthly meeting was virtual and included the election of officers. Mayor Canose was elected as Vice President. She said all elected officials are invited. It's a non-partisan group and a really good way of networking. The county call is now once a month. Somerset County had their reorganization meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Shanel Robinson is the Director and Commissioner Melanie Morano is the Deputy Director. Mayor Canose said Somerset County announced their Covid Testing Center statistics and on December 28<sup>th</sup> they had 1100 people tested and on December 30<sup>th</sup> they had 1435. The county is still holding a vaccination clinic at Lord and Taylor at the Bridgewater Mall and they have done 190 people since January 1<sup>st</sup>. The county also held a vaccination clinic at the Bernardsville Firehouse on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 199 people got vaccinated with either their first, second, or booster shot. The following Sunday, there was another vaccination clinic at the firehouse and 88 people were vaccinated. Mayor Canose said Somerset County has approved a position for a Shared Service Coordinator. Mayor Canose attended the Downtown Bernardsville board meeting. There was a wreath cleanup at St. Bernard's Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. She said our Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops were phenomenal as they had 15 or 16 scouts who did the cleanup and were done in 20 minutes. There was a meeting of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee and they are working on an application to get one of three different designations. There is Healthy Town Up and Coming, Healthy Town To Watch, and Healthy Town. Mayor Canose said we're hoping to get the first one since this is the first year we've applied. She said with that designation we would get a large banner to hang. The Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee is also working on their goals for next year. Mayor Canose attended a meeting of the Somerset County Office on Aging. They noted that there is a really serious home health aid shortage and the county is looking for home health aides. Mayor Canose and Mr. Czerniecki met with John Stuckey of Volta to talk about installation of EV charging stations. She said Mr. Pidgeon is currently reviewing the contract with them. They are looking to put two of the slow ones at the train station and two fast ones at the Library. They said it would take about five months to install once it we approve it. Mr. McQueen asked if there is a reason why they would put the fast ones at the Library since most of our restaurant parking happens at the train station. Mayor Canose said she would expect it's because they were thinking the slow ones would be for commuters because they park at the train station and leave their car all day, whereas the Library has a lot going on and people may just park there and have lunch. Mr. McQueen said he would challenge that logic when we finally get

to that point. He said he feels the train station parking lot is far more utilized in our borough than the Library parking lot. Mayor Canose said there may be more done at Quimby as part of the project and she will follow up and ask them about that. Mr. McQueen said he would be good with making all four of them fast charging. Mayor Canose said the fast ones are pay station and the slow ones are free for the person plugging in. Mayor Canose attended the quarterly meeting of Downtown Bernardsville as did a number of other council members. Our Stigma Free Committee for the county is working on outreach to businesses and a mental health conference in May. The Housing Committee met and now have two new members. There is a resource center at St. Bernards Church that is run by our two Police Chaplains. The resource center had two vaccine clinics, a presentation by an immigration lawyer, and was able to help ten students get back to school after they got sick and had no insurance and therefore could not get a doctor's note.

**Administrator's Report**, Mr. Czerniecki said the survey tabulations have been finished and we will be giving an overview at our meeting next week for the topic of council priorities. He said Geoff Price, Zoning Officer, has announced he will retire this April and we currently have a job posting for that position on the NJ League website. We are placing an order for about 12 new trash cans to go into the downtown area to replace some of the older ones. The Police Department is now fully operational with respect to body worn cameras. Rules and regulations were issued by Chief Valentine and training was provided. The Public Works Department has been dealing with winter road conditions and been out five times already this season, three times to salt and twice to plow.

Mr. McQueen moved to accept the monthly reports as listed on the agenda. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**Municipal Attorney Report**, there were no questions or comments from council on Mr. Pidgeon's report.

**Public Safety Committee**, Mr. Czerniecki said the Committee discussed filling vacancies and promotions within the Police Department. They also discussed addressing some of the pedestrian issues that were raised this evening and those will be brought to the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee. The crosswalk on Route 202 from the train station to Bistro 73 seems to be going forward but the material NJDOT would use cannot be put down in cold temperatures. He said it's raised reflective material and all indications are that once the spring comes it will be done. Ms. McCredie said NJDOT is also talking about extra lighting in the area of the crosswalk.

**Finance Committee**, Mr. McQueen said the committee will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm and continue deliberation of the 2022 budget.

**Organization Development and Personnel Committee**, Ms. Zamarra said the committee is on the schedule for a meeting next week.

**Engineering, Technology, and Public Works Committee,** Ms. Greenfield said the committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the RFPs from four companies for the position of Borough Engineer and their recommendation will go to the full council for consideration at a special meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2022 road repair options were discussed and the committee has added an additional option and will send all four options to the Finance Committee. A dam remediation presentation for both breach/removal and reconstruction options will hopefully be ready for council and the public by the end of March. The pickleball court engineering is completed and the project was out to bid on January 20<sup>th</sup> with bids to be opened on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The goal is to complete the project by the time the pool opens. An extra electrical conduit will be run to facilitate any future lighting needs. The pickleball court plan does provide a bioswale as a portion of the project's stormwater management plan. The Environmental Commission will be asked for their input on plant selection and placement. The Polo Grounds walking path permitting process has been ongoing since April 2021. A meeting was held with NJDEP on January 11<sup>th</sup> to close the loopholes on two permit requests and we're hopeful the permits will be approved by the end of the month. We are awaiting a new system for the replacement of our UV disinfection system which failed during tropical storm Ida. The new system is due approximately by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The temporary system in place currently is performing well. The Library's lower level generator project is completely closed out. The medical offices in the lower level of the Library have expanded into Suite 104, which will add approximately an additional \$35,000 per year in rent revenue to the borough. The trash receptacles that Mr. Czerniecki spoke about earlier are being done in conjunction with Downtown Bernardsville's Design Committee. The work on the pavers in front of the karate studio was completed at the end of December. An appeal has been issued for resetting of the pavers in front of the new Bernardsville Print Center building, and this will take place when the weather gets warmer. Ms. Zamarra said the Public Works Committee briefly mentioned the Old Army Road sidewalks as discussed by residents earlier in open session. She said it was also brought up last year in addition to tonight, so the committee tried to come up with a compromise. She said along with Chief Valentine and the Borough Engineer's help, a speed radar sign was installed along with some signage to alert drivers that there are pedestrians in the roadway. The consensus of the residents is that the signs are great but they really want sidewalks. She said John Macdowall agreed that it's worth revisiting in terms of feasibility.

**Planning Board,** Mr. McQueen said the Board met and had the swearing-in of reappointed members and discussed moving the Palmer property study forward. A resolution was adopted earlier tonight approving a contract with Topology to begin work on the evaluation of the Palmer property and whether it meets the criteria for area of redevelopment.

**Housing Committee,** Ms. Greenfield said the committee met January 21<sup>st</sup> and discussed priorities for the beginning of the year to include working on an airbnb ordinance which would also address stash houses. They are continuing to work on a potential perimeter fence ordinance. They are updating forms and procedures that residents can use to report on any problems pertaining to housing, property maintenance, and zoning issues.

**Recreation Committee**, Mr. McQueen said priorities are set for Phase One of the Polo Grounds redevelopment master plan project. Suburban Engineering is moving on four priorities: connecting the Audubon with the trail, the master path, lighting, and the pavilion. Engineering studies are moving forward on all those four projects to assess feasibility and budgets. This will be part of our discussion at next week's special meeting when we talk about council priorities. Mayor Canose said the trails at 271 Mine Brook Road are also a priority.

**Board of Health**, Mr. Ribeiro said the Board met on January 10<sup>th</sup> and it was a reorganization meeting. There are three new members on the Board: Brian Wallace, Rhonda Simoff, and Lennie Ambelang. Len Friedman was elected president and Francine Dello Russo was elected secretary. The Health Officer gave a report stating that overtime for healthcare workers over the last few months were paid for by three grants from the state. The Visiting Nurse Contract was approved. The next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Environmental Commission**, Mr. Ambelang said the Commission met on January 12<sup>th</sup> and introduced new members. They discussed prioritization, focusing around water quality, carbon footprints which include EV charging, and continuing education. They also talked about helping with the plastic bag ban for single use which will go into effect in New Jersey on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Shade Tree Committee**, Johanna Wissinger said the committee met Wednesday. She said Renee Apuzzo gave her permit report. For tree removal permits, there were nine last month and 158 for the whole year. Ms. Wissinger said Ed English has resigned from the committee. She said he was a very active member and thanked him for his service. Mr. McQueen asked if we have an assessment of how much or what percentage of the train station lot is actually used for commuter parking versus downtown parking. He said it would be a good piece of information to have as we consider E-vehicles and other parking situations in the development of Quimby Lane. A pre-Covid comparison would be helpful. Mr. Suriano will provide the number of parking decals sold for the train station parking lot from 2019 to present. Mayor Canose asked if we are obligated to hold some parking spaces for NJ Transit even if people aren't using them to commute. Mr. Pidgeon said we have an agreement with NJ Transit as to which spots are allocated to commuters and which are allocated to downtown shopper parking. He said he has a map that was prepared years ago which indicates all the designations of the spaces in the train station parking lot that he will circulate to council. He said he feels the numbers are negotiable with NJ Transit. Mayor Canose said we would need the amount of decals sold to prove that we have fewer commuters than in the past and to designate more shopper parking.

**Open Space Committee**, Ms. McCredie said the committee did not meet and she reached out to Pat McFadden, Open Space Chair, to introduce herself as a liaison and to get on the calendar when they meet.

**Library Board of Trustees**, Ms. McCredie said the Board had their reorganization meeting and appointed their President and Secretary and discussed their budget. She said a topic they discussed that might come back to council involved a high school student and a wind bush that he wants to install at the Library. The Board is going to do some research as they had some

questions and didn't yet have answers, so they held off on making any recommendations, though they discussed putting it at Nervine Park. Mayor Canose said Ashwin Barama, who is a junior at Bernard's High School, had started discussing this project with her and it's a really unique idea. He met with Johanna Wissinger and has already raised \$5,000 towards this project. Mayor Canose said when they last spoke, they thought about the Library as a location but there isn't really a good spot there. They also thought about possibly the Polo Grounds or Nervine Park. She said the issue for Ashwin is that to collect donations he needs a sponsoring 501(c)3 organization. She said right now he is looking to find a sponsoring group that can accept the donations on his behalf. She said Mr. Ambelang has been helping with that project, too.

### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

#### **Request for Temporary Sign at Olcott Square**

Council consent was given for a request by The Bonafides of Somerset Hills to put a temporary sandwich board sign at the median at Route 202 and Mount Airy Road (Olcott Square Triangle) advertising an event at St. James Church on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The sign will be displayed from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Zoning Officer will issue the permit.

#### **Board of Adjustment Vacancy (Council Appointment)**

Mr. McQueen moved to appoint Rich Traynor as a regular member of the Board of Adjustment for an unexpired term to 12/31/23; Edward McDowell as Alternate #1 for an unexpired term to 12/31/23; Thomas Slocum to Alternate #2 for an unexpired term to 12/31/22; and to interview candidates at the next council meeting for Alternates #3 and #4. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

Mr. McQueen proposed having a public discussion with interested candidates for this vacancy because it's such a critical board as we go through redevelopment. Mr. Pidgeon suggested that discussion with candidates be in public and then council could deliberate in closed session. Mr. Suriano will reach out to the six candidates who indicated an interest in serving on the Board of Adjustment on a recent Skills Bank application to confirm their interest and invite them to the February 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting for an interview. Ms. Zamarra said she reviewed the Skills Bank forms provided. She said while council should review all the forms, Danielle Loeffler is extremely qualified and should be considered based on her background. She said she has a great perspective and would add a very different dimension to our current Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. McQueen suggested having all the candidates present at once. Ms. Loeffler was present and Mr. McQueen asked her if she could come back to the next meeting for interviews for the Board of Adjustment vacancy. Ms. Loeffler agreed to attend. Mr. McQueen said council frequently receives Skills Bank forms and should adopt a resolution for an official process for in-year replacements. He said volunteers do really important work for our town and we should probably speak with them before they go on any of our committees. Mr. Pidgeon said we can do a resolution setting the process for replacements on any Board/Committee council wants to include. A resolution will be considered at a future meeting.

**Environmental Commission Vacancy (Mayor's Appointment of Dan Zielinski)**

Mayor Canose announced her appointment of Dan Zielinski to the Environmental Commission.

**Open Space Committee Vacancy  
(Mayor's Appointment w/Council consent of Ross Zazzarino)**

Mr. McQueen moved consent to the Mayor's appointment of Ross Zazzarino to the Open Space Committee. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**Correspondence** - None

**Unfinished Business** - None

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Olivia Manning, Downtown Bernardsville, said in hearing all the committee reports tonight and the things that Downtown Bernardsville's committees are working on, there can be some crossover. She said there can be some areas where they can assist or the Borough might already have something that can assist Downtown Bernardsville in their work. She asked if it would be beneficial to both the Borough Council and Downtown Bernardsville to have a council member as a liaison and have Downtown Bernardsville not be a formal committee but have a connection on a regular basis. She said she's met with Mr. Czerniecki a few times and wants to do that at least once a month. She said Downtown Bernardsville is here to help and the Borough could help Downtown Bernardsville as well. Mayor Canose said a lot of our activities dovetail and she hopes that's her role on the Downtown Bernardsville Board is listening to what's going on and being able to see opportunities where we can help. Mayor Canose said she is available to talk anytime along with meeting with Mr. Czerniecki on a regular basis. Mr. McQueen asked at what point can we talk about committees and at what point does council debate and deliberate what committees we have either by statute or by resolution. Mr. Pidgeon said we can do that at any point and it would just need to be listed on an agenda. Mayor Canose said it's actually on one of our priority lists. She said it could go the other way and maybe the chair of the Design Committee could be on the Downtown Redevelopment Committee. Ms. Manning said her Economic Vitality Committee is also focused on our economic restructuring in town. Mayor Canose said while Downtown Bernardsville's board members do a lot, maybe Ms. Manning could ask them if they want to sit in on those committee meetings.

Johanna Wissinger, Environmental Commission, talked about salt. She said she's been connected with a regional environmental group and the Great Swamp has reached out with a lot of talk about all the salt that's used. She said she is looking to connect with Mr. Czerniecki or someone from the Public Works Department to see if the town would think about brining. She

said it seems to be a way that uses much less salt and the number one pollutant for the Great Swamp is salt. She said just last week she saw charts of how salt has affected wildlife because it accumulates. Mr. McQueen asked if the Environmental Commission assessed the situation with costs and current practices and written what their recommendation is and what they'd like to do. Ms. Wissinger said they have not formally presented it to the council lately but are collecting this information all the time. She asked Mr. McQueen if he would like her to prepare a report for council. Mr. McQueen said he would be interested to hear and understand the issue of costs of all the various inputs. He said that's something valuable that our committees can provide to council because they can't individually investigate each issue. Mayor Canose said it's good to know what the alternatives are and that way it helps us plan.

Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

### New Business

Mr. Pidgeon said there's one other matter regarding the Borough's waste disposal contract with Sakoutis Brothers Disposal, Inc. He said they've been bought out by Republic Service and asked us to consent to an assignment of the contract. He said this would require a short resolution. Ms. McCredie moved **Resolution #22-37, CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF SAKOUTIS BROTHERS DISPOSAL, INC.** Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was seconded and approved with six yes votes.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Pending Litigation and that the time when and circumstances under which the matter can be disclosed to the public is when it is finally resolved. The motion was seconded and approved with six yes votes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

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