

Jeff Grayzel commentary – March 19, 2014

Morris Township Committee meeting

I would like to start off by thanking Mother Nature for going easy on us the past couple of weeks. It was nice to get a respite from all the shoveling we have all been doing this winter.

On our consent calendar tonight we have the resignation of Jean Wotowicz from the Board of Health. I would like to thank Jean for her service to the Township as a volunteer on this board.

Congratulations to Firefighter Brendan McCloskey on his joining our fire department as a full-time paid employee. Thank you to Brendan for his years as a volunteer firefighter serving the residents of Morris Township. It is great to have people that volunteer their time to benefit the other residents of Morris Township.

Congratulations to the Morristown High School hockey team on their victory. I have noticed recently that almost every month we have some recognition of youth on our agendas. Tonight we also have a junior firefighter joining our fire department. We recently had the recognition of a new eagle scout, and we have also recognized academic excellence. On tonight's agenda we made our annual contribution to the Morris Minutemen, and many youth serve on that ambulance squad. I think it would be nice to recognize them at a future meeting. It is nice to see so many youth in our community getting recognized and I wanted the public to be aware of these happenings even though they may get lost on our agenda at times.

As some of you may have heard, I was hit by a car last month while crossing the street within a crosswalk in Morristown. Pedestrian safety now has a whole new meaning to me, as I would not wish that experience upon anybody. I am very lucky that I did not break any bones and am able to walk today. The Township Committee has received repeated requests from the residents along James Street to install a sidewalk so that they can walk safely along this busy corridor. This item has not been included in our budget introduced tonight, in part because we still need a commitment from Morristown that they will fund their portion of the

budget. I will speak to my colleagues on the Morristown council to urge them to have their Mayor include funding in their budget. However, I would like to ask our administrator Mr. Quinn to start pursuing grant funding for the sidewalk that would help defray the costs for both the Township and for Morristown.

(end)