

Jeff Grayzel commentary – September 17, 2014

Morris Township Committee meeting

First, I would like to thank all the residents who came to the meeting tonight. Your input is very important for this body to hear.

I would like reiterate my comments made earlier in the meeting to the reallocation of \$108,000 in funding for a sidewalk planned for Columbia Road. This money was allocated for a sidewalk, and I want this body to remember the commitment it made for a sidewalk on James Street when the time comes to fund that project.

I am intrigued by the TV petition presented by Cathy Wilson and the 378 signatures she gathered. Surely she got all of those signatures just by visiting a fraction of the residences in Morris Township. I think that this shows there is interest out there among our residents. Last year I brought up the idea of televising our meetings, and this body had a brief discussion of the issue. At that time it was deemed that Mr. Quinn had too much on his plate so to speak. I am hoping we can ask that Mr. Quinn's assistant start to gather some preliminary information from the surrounding towns that broadcast their meetings to see how they do it and at what cost.

Congratulations to Marty's cycle shop in Morristown on the success of their recent Gran Fondo bike ride. This was the fourth occurrence of the event since its inception in 2011, and all of the proceeds go to charity. It traversed multiple municipalities including sections of Morris Township. I asked Marty for some statistics from the event and I would like to share some of these with you:

- Gran Fondo NJ 2014 attracted over 2,000 participants from 28 different states in the US, a contingent from Puerto Rico, and riders from the UK, Switzerland, France, Israel, Brazil and Colombia.
- Cumulatively they rode over 133,000 miles, climbed over 11,000,000 feet.
- The event started and finished in Morristown NJ, with routes of 18, 42, 62 and 107 miles going through 23 different municipalities on the way to the Delaware River and back.

- Preliminary results indicate that this year, Gran Fondo NJ 2014 and its participants will generate over \$200,000 in charitable contributions for the direct beneficiaries of the event (The Seeing Eye, Homeless Solutions, Grow it Green, Sustainable Morristown, and The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition) and other organizations including The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Good Grief, and The New Jersey Sharing Network.
- This should bring the cumulative amount raised for Charities to over \$600,000 since its inception in 2011.

So thanks again to Marty, Jesse, and their team for all that they do to give back to the community.

This year the Hillside Hose Company is celebrating their 100 year anniversary. In honor of the occasion they are hosting a party in Lewis Morris Park this Saturday September 20 from noon until 8pm. The public is invited to attend, and there will many family activities for all members of the family.

The Township Trails & Pathways committee met about 6 weeks ago. We decided that at our next meeting that we would have an outside agency make a presentation on the NJ Complete Streets program so that the Committee could gather more information in order to possibly make some future recommendations to the Township Committee. A municipal Complete Streets policy formalizes a community's intent to plan, design, operate, and maintain streets that are safe for all users of all ages and abilities It helps municipalities to consistently plan for, design, and construct community streets to accommodate all anticipated users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, and freight vehicles. According to the New Jersey Department of Transportation website: "NJDOT has been recognized as a national leader for advancing Complete Streets policies, which promote safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users of New Jersey roadways" . Personally, I would like to see the new development on the Honeywell site take into account the Complete Street guidelines when they design their streets. I plan on passing this idea onto the planning board.

Lastly, the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah is approaching and I would like to wish all of our Jewish residents a very happy new year.

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