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March 2012: Morris Township News Update

**IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE:**

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Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to be sending you the latest in a series of E-newsletters containing commentary on our Township Committee meetings as well as other helpful information about our municipality.

If you missed any of my past newsletters, you can click [HERE](#) to review prior issues.

Note that there are several types of meetings and events packed into the next few days (March 5-7 in particular), so please read the newsletter through to the "Other Items of Interest" section near the end.

Please take a moment to sit back, read, and consider. As always, I welcome your comments. When you are finished, please pass this on to your neighbors and friends.

## **Township Committee Regular Meeting of February 15th**

The Township Committee held a regular meeting on February 15th. The agenda can be found here:

[http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm\\_12-02-15.pdf](http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/twpcomm_12-02-15.pdf)

One **ordinance** was up for introduction and two were up for final adoption. The following ordinance was introduced and will be up for approval and final adoption at the March 21st meeting:

- **4-12 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CONCERNING SALARIES FOR NONUNION PERSONNEL.**

The following ordinances were up for approval and final adoption, and both passed unanimously:

- **01-12 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, CONCERNING SALARIES FOR MEMBERS OF MORRIS COUNTY COUNCIL NO. 6, NJCSA, FPTE, AFL-CIO.**
- **2-12 AMENDING CHAPTER 95, ZONING-OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS RE: 95-54. C. OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICULAR USES (THIS ORDINANCE WAS REMANDED TO THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS)**



Several **resolutions** were then voted upon, and these can be found by clicking on the link to the agenda above. All resolutions were passed unanimously.

During the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting, two residents came up to the microphone to discuss various issues:

**The first resident** brought up several subjects:

- He thanked the Township for quickly following up on his complaint about the fallen light posts on his street.
- He asked that the Township Committee take their time reviewing the proposed amendment to the master plan and not to rush the process. He urged the Township Committee to get independent analysis of various aspects of the projects and to review and consider reports completely and thoroughly.

**The second resident** read a prepared statement about the proposed amendment to the township master plan. She was a representative of the citizens group C4BPMT and they have posted the comments on their website: <http://c4bpmt.org/our-statement-to-morris-township-committee/>

As is typical, the Township Committee commentary followed the public commentary. As announced in the last newsletter, my comments will be posted on line so that they are publicly available. Here are my remarks from the 2/15/12 meeting:

<http://www.jeffgrayzel.com/committee-comments.html>

**Note:  
7:00pm  
meeting  
start time.**

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday March 21st at 7:00pm in our municipal building.

NOTE: This year the Township Committee has decided to start the public portion of our meetings at 7:00pm instead of the traditional 8:00pm as in the past. Please make note of the new 7pm start time.

### **Township Committee discussion on the Master Plan Amendment process**

In light of high public interest in the Honeywell development proposal before the Planning Board, at the January 18th Township Committee meeting I requested of Mayor Mancuso that we hold a public review of the role the Township Committee plays in the land-use planning and land-use law-making.

The Mayor honored my request, and the last item on our Feb. 15th agenda was a discussion of this topic. While our discussion was not quite what I had hoped for, I was pleased that the Township Committee took a step into public discourse.

In a soliloquy, the Township Committee was generally advised by the municipal attorney, John Mills, to hold off on discussion of any matter which would be referred to it by the Planning Board until that referral was made. Further, Mr. Mills reminded the Committee that the Master Plan was the Planning Board's responsibility and the Planning Board had full authority over it. He said that zoning ordinances or laws which were expected to follow the intentions of the Master Plan were the responsibility of the Committee. Should the Committee disagree with the substance or intent of the Master Plan, it could choose to not introduce the intended ordinance or to introduce a



different ordinance. However it would first need to explain itself through a "reasons resolution".

Here is a summary of the discussion from the Newsbee Newspaper:

[http://newjerseyhills.com/morris\\_news\\_bee/news/morris-township-attorney-refrain-on-master-plan-comments/article\\_8fce2b08-5cd4-11e1-8b3a-001871e3ce6c.html](http://newjerseyhills.com/morris_news_bee/news/morris-township-attorney-refrain-on-master-plan-comments/article_8fce2b08-5cd4-11e1-8b3a-001871e3ce6c.html)

### **Planning Board to hold March 5 public comment session for draft Master Plan Amendment for Honeywell**



At its January 9th meeting, the Planning Board discussed a draft amendment to the Township's Master Plan to enable mixed-use development at the 147-acre Honeywell property on Columbia Turnpike and Park Avenue. A newly created zone would allow hundreds of town houses, retail space, office buildings, and a 400-unit CCRC on a subdivision of the Honeywell tract.

You will find a copy of the draft master plan amendment on the website of "Citizens For better Planning in Morris Township". This is a citizen group formed to monitor Honeywell site development planning. See their website: <http://c4bpmt.org/call-to-action/>

Read the master plan amendment:

<http://c4bpmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Draft-Master-Plan-Amendment-Morris-Township-Jan-9-2012.pdf>

The March 5 Planning Board meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Municipal building. The agenda can be found at this link, showing the master plan discussion as item "C".

[http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/plbd\\_agenda\\_12-03-05.pdf](http://www.morristwp.com/agendas/plbd_agenda_12-03-05.pdf)

In preparation for a large public turnout, the Planning Board has published "Rules Governing Public Hearings on the Township Master Plan" which can be found at

<http://www.morristwp.com/pdfs/2012MasterPlanRules.pdf>

### **BPU board members to appear at March 19 Township Committee Meeting**

At the upcoming March 19 Township Committee meeting there will be a public briefing held with several members of the N.J Board of Public Utilities ("BPU). They will review the two natural disasters that occurred last year and their effects on the disruption to our electrical supply in Morris Township, and give us an update on the current state of affairs. Two BPU Commissioners will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

### **The Passing of Jan Wotowicz**

I am sad to report the passing of former Morris Township Mayor Jan Wotowicz. Mr. Wotowicz served the community in many capacities over several decades. Our community mourns his loss.

<http://morris.patch.com/articles/wotowicz-who-gave-decades-to-morris-twp-dies>

### **Other items of interest...**

### **Goryeb Children's Hospital sponsors an eating disorders program at Morristown High School on March 5:**

The Eating Disorders Program at Goryeb Adolescent/Young Adult Center for Health of Morristown Medical Center and the Morristown High School Raising Healthy Teens Committee is sponsoring a workshop this Monday, March 5th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. To register, call 800-247-9580. For more information:

<http://morris.patch.com/articles/program-for-parents-and-teachers-set>

**M.E.F. sponsors "Celebrate Calm" Parent and Teacher Education Workshop at Morristown High School on March 6:**

The event is FREE and open to the public. Donations gladly accepted. Registration not required. The workshop aims to:

- Eliminate defiance, disrespect, and power struggles (even with teens)
- Improve focus, attention, and behavior in school
- Relieve anxiety, sensory issues and sibling fights
- Develop motivated, responsible children
- Create stress-free mornings, homework time, and bedtime

**"Celebrate Calm" Parent and Teacher Education Workshop  
March 6**

The workshop will take place this Tuesday, March 6th from 7:00 - 0:00 pm and is applicable for parents of both typical and special needs children of all ages. Sponsored by the Morris Educational Foundation and P.A.C.E. For more information about the program and speaker visit [www.celebratecalm.com](http://www.celebratecalm.com) or contact the sponsors at [PACE.msd@gmail.com](mailto:PACE.msd@gmail.com)

**USPS to hold public hearings on closing local post offices:** The postal service is holding hearings this Wednesday and Thursday on closing the Convent Station and Morris Street post offices. For more information: <http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20120229/NJNEWS/302290028/Closing-Morris-Street-Convent-Station-post-offices-subject-hearing-next-week?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

**Morris Twp "Municipal\* Messenger":** The Township recently published the latest issue in this periodic series of newsletters containing lots of pertinent information about our municipality. Read the Messenger here: [http://www.morristwp.com/messenger/Spring\\_02\\_21\\_2012.pdf](http://www.morristwp.com/messenger/Spring_02_21_2012.pdf)

**JCP&L to invest \$200 Million in NJ for**

**Improvements:** The company announced a plan to invest \$200 million in 2012 on projects the utility company said are "designed to improve service reliability and help meet the increasing demand for electricity in northern and central New Jersey." Read more details no PATCH here: <http://www.gti.net/mocolib1//music/programs.htm>



**Market St. Mission Thrift Store Reopens:** The George Street facility in Morristown was destroyed by Hurricane Irene, but is back open now and accepting donations. For more information: <http://morristown.patch.com/articles/market-st-mission-thrift-store-reopens>

**Milk/Juice Cartons are Now Recyclable!** Morris Township has started recycling milk and juice cartons as well as other types of paperboard cartons used for beverages. These should be included with your recycled cans and bottles (NOT with recycled paper or cardboard). Read the [Details and FAQ](http://www.morristwp.com/11cartons.pdf) here: <http://www.morristwp.com/11cartons.pdf>

**Upcoming Committee Meeting...**

The next Township Committee meeting will be on Wednesday March 21st at 7:00pm at our municipal building. Please note the earlier start time for the committee meetings this year.



Looking ahead, the April meeting will take place on April 18.

### **Contact Jeff...**

I will continue to communicate with the public by e-newsletter on a periodic basis. However, if you ever have a question or an issue you would like to discuss, feel free to contact me by e-mail. I will continue to respond to e-mails sent to [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com). You can now also reach me at my official Township email address: [JGrayzel@Morristwp.com](mailto:JGrayzel@Morristwp.com)

**Meeting:  
Wed.  
Mar. 21st**

**Please feel free to forward this e-mail news on to others.** If you know someone who would like to subscribe to future issues, please have them contact me at [Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffGrayzel.com)

I am pleased to again be serving the residents of Morris Township on the Township Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns.

Your neighbor,  
**Jeff**

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