Fanwood Borough Council opts for appeal from COAH ruling

In a unanimous vote at a special meeting on Monday, Oct. 24, the six member Fanwood Borough Council voted to ask the Appellate Court to take a look at the discretionary opinion handed down by the N.J. Council on Affordable Housing last week. The governing body has been involved in ongoing mediation with three builders and their attorneys for some months. A COAH representative has been mediating the sessions which broke off over the question of whether sound housing could be destroyed for the sole purpose of increasing density.

In their argument before COAH the Borough also sought to exclude two of the three parcels of land in contention because they were less than two acres in size and COAH’s definition of vacant land had been resided in for more than two years. Furthermore, two of the sites were inappropriate because they were not vacant but contained single family housing.

"Moreover, the Borough had originally sought a reduction of their fair share of low and moderate income housing from 87 to 0 on the grounds that the Borough is a fully developed community," the Borough’s argument continued. "COAH had ruled earlier that a municipality that is totally developed may adjust its number to zero, however, if a builder’s objection is filled the municipality must mediate with the builder. Although Fanwood has a master plan in place which provides for higher density in an area selected by the Borough, COAH ruled that the builders have the land available for aid in meeting part of Fanwood’s obligation now. COAH also rejected the argument of the loss of sound housing on the site, contending that those houses would be more than made up for by the units (12) that would be gained through the builders plan which envisages sixty units divided among the three parcels. The Borough’s argument against the suitability of the builders’ sites was also rejected.

At the special meeting the Borough’s Mt. Laurel attorney, Mr. Polek, argued the case and brought with him a large number of letters in support of the Borough.

Mrs. Bob Gurske, president of the Home School Association and Father John Doherty were present to support the students.

Barbara Ripe, representing the manager’s office presented information on bids received for a 1250 gallon per minute fire pumper. This was the second time that the town had pursued bids, as the first time only 1 company responded. While bids were sought from 3 companies, again, only Pierce

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St. Bartholomew’s students: Front row, left to right—Caroline Manalo, Domenick Estis, Jennifer Silver, and Meredith Lavoie. Rear—Dominick Lagano and, Dominick McDevitt, John Dwyer, Ray Johnson, Olivia Lagano, and Adrianna Tous.

The tradition goes on

The SPF High School Marching Band is proud to announce the beginning of another winning season in marching band competition.

On Saturday evening, October 8th at the Somerville High School field, they received the highest possible rating which is a Superior rating. In the overall awards, they received the 3rd highest score overall, and the Fronts received the 2nd highest score overall. At the Picacaway Competition on Sunday, October 16th, the SPFHS Marching Band once again scored a Superior rating. They won a trophy for the highest score in Front Squads, and the Mayor’s Trophy which was awarded to the best performing student of the year.

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