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Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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Pat Connor for *The Times*

WHEEE!…The Super Slide 2000 provided attendees to the 29th Annual UNICO/St. Bartholomew Labor Day Italian Festival with hours of thrills last weekend.

SP, Fanwood Residents Fear Devel. Will Increase Flooding

By ELAINE VUONO
Specially Written for The Times

Woodcliff, Inc., the owner of 33 Ginder Place, continued its application for a five-lot subdivision at the Fanwood Planning Board meeting last week.

The application, if granted, would allow the building of a five-house development, that residents fear will increase flooding in their neighborhood.

The development would be built on a planned cul-de-sac called Beverly Place, to be accessed off of Midway Avenue and would be adjacent to the Scotch Plains border, near the Cedar Brook.

John Du Pont, of E.K.A. Associates, the applicant's engineer, testified regarding changes that were made to Woodcliff Inc.'s plans, in light of input received from the Borough Engineer, Rick Marsden, and board comments at last month's meeting.

The majority of the revisions were to the proposed drainage system, which would now be installed almost completely on the site, instead of on private or borough-owned property.

The pipes would now be plastic, instead of metal, and have an open bottom, to allow water to infiltrate into the ground, as well as flow through the system. Stones would be installed below the piping to maximize percolation into the soil. An emergency spillway would be added at the center-rear of the property, which would allow water to flow through an inlet directly into the Cedar Brook, should the system fail.

Mr. Du Pont advised that the New Jersey Residential Site Improvement Standards dictate that after development, the rate of water runoff must be reduced to 80 percent of what existed before the development occurred, so the rate of runoff on the property will actually decrease.

He acknowledged that while the development will increase the actual amount of the flow, the system – which can hold up to 30,000 gallons of water – will retain the water and release it slowly into the brook.

There were several questions from board members regarding responsibility for the maintenance of the system, after Mr. Du Pont indicated that appropriate maintenance is the key to keeping the system functioning properly.

Mr. Du Pont stated that public works departments usually maintain these systems, so that they are prop-

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Extraordinary Aid Shortfall Pondered By SP-F School Bd.

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi gave a construction update on the district's facilities during a joint business and regular meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on August 28.

Mr. Del Sordi said that the board expected a smooth opening after great efforts were made to bring construction projects to a close.

The overpass and elevator at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) were still in the process of being finished and sign-offs on the work were expected within two weeks. Use of adjacent classrooms would not be delayed.

The parking lots were being readied and the fences will be removed by the start of school in order to make additional parking available. New parking lines will be drawn to gain more spaces, and 28 additional spaces will be made available at Evergreen Park on Westfield Avenue.

The board will assess the number of spaces sometime during the opening week of school to make a determination regarding the adequacy of parking, once the lines were in place, he said.

The windows at McGinn Elementary School would be under construction for another two months. Contractors were instructed to complete two classrooms per day in order to avoid disruption to the teachers and students.

Due to heavy construction throughout the state, all construction projects have been delayed, Mr. Del Sordi explained. Engineers will also be looking into putting air conditioning into the high school auditorium, which was previously considered.

Board members commented that this would allow more programs during the summer months, in the auditorium.

Design plans for Park Middle School windows were underway and were expected to go out to bid by December or January, Mr. Del Sordi reported.

Punch list items on all of the schools were in the process of being completed and inspected.

The high school fields were sodded again. However, due to the unusually wet spring, the planting of grass was late and has not yet rooted. For this reason, some of the fields will not be usable until the spring.

Renovations to the high school gym, nurse's office and music rooms will be planned later this year and were already budgeted items.

There was major flooding the week of August 18, causing the upper fields to drain heavily into the lower fields. Westfield Road was backed up with

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SP Officials Seek Ways to Redevelop Business District

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

There have been some discussions in Scotch Plains' downtown business community about options, besides a Special Improvement District (SID), that could help inject new vitality into the central business district, although township government officials are keen on continuing to seriously examine the establishment of a SID.

Councilwoman Nancy Malool told the Township Council at its conference meeting on Tuesday night that business owners have been discussing whether the business district might qualify as an "Area in Need of Redevelopment," a state designation included in the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.

Such a designation would allow downtown redevelopment to be handled differently than a SID, with different options available to township officials.

Township Attorney Douglas Hansen felt that downtown Scotch Plains would not qualify, but Councilwoman Malool said members of the Towne Centre Task Force, an advisory group of local businesspeople and town officials, believed the decision

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Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Times*

QUICK BURN… Last Thursday, August 28, the Quick Chek in Scotch Plains on Westfield Road caught fire, and was quickly put out by Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department. The Westfield Fire Department and Plainfield Fire Department were also on scene for back up.

Replacement of Communications Tower Discussed by Fanwood Borough Council

By ELIZABETH CORRELL
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood's "leaning" communications tower was discussed at length at Tuesday's agenda meeting of the Fanwood council.

Police Chief Donald Domanoski and Officer Brian Bartimoro presented the mayor and council with photographs and information on the state of the tower, located on the Borough Hall grounds which is leaning three feet to the south.

Officer Bartimoro explained that the radio tower needs to be replaced entirely, but in the meantime, it is crucial that a grounding system be installed. He stated that the tower has not been grounded properly, and this is a very dangerous situation.

The police department has received a new radio system from an $80,000 grant, and Officer Bartimoro emphasized that this new equipment must be protected from lightning strikes that can often hit a tall metal tower. In the current state, if lightning did strike the tower, the new equipment would be destroyed.

One bid has been received that estimates the cost of the protection to be $3,000, and other bids will be reviewed.

New radios have already been installed in patrol cars, and the repeaters, devices for receiving and delivering signals, and antennae will be installed within the next two weeks, Officer Bartimoro reported. The department anticipates that the new system will be online by Wednesday, October 1.

In discussing the replacement tower, Officer Bartimoro explained that, "the new tower needs to be at least 100 to 110 feet tall," reflecting the research he has conducted on the matter. Discussion was held about the height and type of tower and equipment that would be necessary should the municipality be interested in attracting wireless service providers in the future.

Officer Bartimoro also presented information on two types of towers for the municipality, "mono pole" and "lattice" tower.

Charles Whelan of Salient Associates, a cellular communications specialist who has advised the Fanwood Planning Board on the cell tower issues with Verizon and AT&T, was also present at the meeting. He added his expert advice on the matter.

The hour-long presentation and discussion concluded with Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung and the council making preliminary decisions to act thoroughly and quickly on the lightning protection for the existing tower, and to request bids for both types of replacement tower: pole and lattice.

In other business, Borough Engineer Richard Marsden presented an update on several current public works projects.

South Avenue, West, the side street located by Fanwood Liquors, has been "beat up by heavy truck traffic," according to Mr. Marsden. To rectify the situation, a $95,000 project, fully funded by the Department of Transportation, will conduct milling, resurfacing, curbing and drainage at the location.

Work is "desperately needed" at the intersection of Second Street and Coriell Avenue, explained Mr. Marsden. Discussion was held regarding the curve at the intersection of the two streets, proper handling of the rainwater flow with the installation of piping, and sidewalks being redone.

Mr. Marsden added that Shady Lane needs to have a "crown" given to the road to help drain away water to the curbs

"We are overdue for milling. The costs came in higher than expected, and this is not a Department of Transportation paid project. I hope to receive bids within two weeks," he stated.

The council will hold its next regular public meeting on Tuesday, September 9.

Officials Will Stage Mock Emergency Disaster Drill in Westfield on Sept. 6

On Saturday, September 6, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and noon, the Union Country Office of Emergency Management and Town of Westfield, in conjunction with other local, state and Federal agencies and local hospitals, will conduct a mock emergency disaster exercise at the Westfield Train Station. During the course of the exercise, emergency response personnel, equipment, and vehicles will be in the immediate vicinity of the Westfield Train Station on the North Avenue side.

The drill is intended to test response capabilities. There is no need to become alarmed. This is a mock emergency disaster exercise to evaluate preparedness. Individuals should feel free to go about their daily routine.

Organizers wish to make this drill as realistic as possible; however, in order to do so it will necessitate a simulated evacuation. At some point in time during the exercise, emergency response personnel may distribute a flyer to homes or business declaring them "evacuated." You will not be required to leave your home or businesses. This is for demonstration purposes only.

It is important that people do not call the main police communications center if you have any questions or concerns regarding the mock emergency disaster exercise. Calls should be directed to Deputy Chief Duelks at the Westfield Fire Department (908) 789-4131.

Horace R. Corbin for *The Times*

SCHOOL SCRAMBLE…Vehicles carrying Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) students wound their way through traffic early yesterday morning to drop off pupils for their first day of school. Pictured, in center photo, SPFHS crossing guard Vincent Krey, who has served in this capacity for 11 years, led students safely across Westfield Road. The south end of Westfield Road, from Brunner Elementary School to North Avenue, was undergoing paving reconstruction, which slowed down traffic. The road from SPFHS to Plainfield Avenue was newly paved.

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Horace R. Corbin for *The Times*

OPEN FOR BUSINESS…The doors of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School officially opened for the 2003-2004 academic term on yesterday morning, as busloads of children were dropped off for classes.

Safety, Health Concerns Top Reasons Why Officials Chose to Delay Opening of WHS

By ED COONEY
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- Due to safety concerns and construction delays, Westfield High School (WHS) will open on Monday, September 8, instead of Wednesday, September 3, as originally planned.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley toured the building on Thursday, August 28, with WHS Principal Dr. Robert Petix, Board of Education Business Administrator and Board Secretary Robert Berman, and members of the school board.

After assessing the school's condition and finding safety conditions to be unsatisfactory, Dr. Foley decided to delay the school's opening.

Chief among the safety concerns is the presence of high amounts of dust in the air due to the summer-long construction. Dust levels in WHS are high enough that inhaling it could pose a health risk to both students and staff.

In addition, furniture that had to be removed from classrooms being renovated is still in the hallways. The furniture would hinder movement through the school, keeping students and teachers from getting to their designated classrooms on time. The furniture will be moved out of the hallways as soon as construction on the classrooms is complete.

Along with the safety concerns, construction on some of the classrooms continues to wrap up. While major construction is complete, a number of the floors have to be re-leveled, and clocks in the classrooms need to be restored to functionality.

The WHS renovation plan called for 12 classrooms to be renovated and converted into 14 classrooms. In addition, new classrooms would be added on. Ten of the classrooms to be renovated were science classrooms, each of which had its own gas and water lines for lab work. These lines needed to be capped off, and the other lab equipment in the classrooms needed to be demolished.

Mr. Berman said, "There were a number of field changes in the demolitions that led to delays."

The science rooms, along with two art rooms, are being converted into three art rooms, seven regular classrooms, and four small group instruction rooms.

WHS underwent its fire inspection on Wednesday, August 27. The fire inspector found that dust from construction had covered some of the school's smoke detectors, posing a possible fire hazard.

"The fire inspector returned this week, and the dust had been cleared away from the smoke detectors," said Mr. Berman. WHS passed fire inspection.

A new elevator being installed by the instrumental music room arrived this week. Its installation should be complete "by the beginning of October," said Mr. Berman.

Penalties for delays appear in the contracts the school district signed with various companies involved in the renovations at WHS. Liquidated damages may be assessed based on how far construction continues past the August 25 deadline.

Secretary Berman stated, "We'll work with our attorneys to see what milestones were not met and proceed from there."

The possibility of construction delays was addressed by the Board of Education as early as January of this year. When the 2003-2004 school calendar was presented for consideration on January 14, it contained a back-up plan in case WHS opened on September 8 instead of September 5.

Class will be in session at the high school on February 17 and June 21. Should there be unused snow days, WHS will be in session on April 12 instead of June 21.

Immediately after Superintendent Foley made his decision, notification of parents, guardians, and students began. Letters to every parent or guardian of a WHS student were dropped off at the post office on the afternoon of August 28.

Those who signed up for the WHS e-mail list were notified of the school's delayed opening almost instantly. In addition, Superintendent Foley e-mailed all of his e-mail subscribers. The announcement was placed at the top of the town's website, www.westfieldnj.com. A recording was placed on the school district's phone line, and local newspapers, as well as Channel 36, were notified.

The schedule for the rest of the school district remains the same, as the remainder of Westfield's schools opened yesterday.

"We'll definitely be ready to open on Monday," said Mr. Berman.

Extraordinary Aid Shortfall Pondered by SP-F School Bd.

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water and water was spurting out of the manholes, Mr. Del Sordi said. The backup caused water to enter into the high school guidance area. The district filed a claim and expects most of the damage to be covered by insurance, Mr. Del Sordi reported.

In response to inquiries by residents, Mr. Del Sordi explained that the SPFHS roof has been renovated or replaced in sections, with some areas replaced in 1993 and other areas replaced in 2000. Due to the building being so large, the roof replacement is done in sections. The warranties for some sections are still in effect, while warranties for other areas have expired, he said.

The locker rooms at Terrill Middle School have been renovated and sections of the ceiling have been replaced so that the ceilings do not leak anymore. Several other problems have been encountered with workmanship at Terrill, and contractors will repair these problems during non-school hours, including replacing flooring and repainting.

The completion of repaving of Westfield Avenue in front of SPFHS is expected before the start of school, weather permitting, Mr. Del Sordi relayed. Other sections of Westfield Avenue will be repaved in the next few weeks.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol Choye, told the board that she has been very busy reviewing hundreds of résumés and applications in order to fill many positions open in the district.

The principals of both Terrill and Park Middle Schools have moved on. Terrill Principal John Foulks retired, while Park Principal Rocco Collucci has taken a position in Rahway.

The new Principal and Assistant Principal at Park Middle will be Lisa Rebimbas and Kevin Halloway, respectively, while the new Principal at Terrill will be Ned Baubles and the new Assistant Principal will be Michael Klimko.

Dr. Margaret Hayes, Director of Personnel, said that the district held a three-day orientation for 40 new teachers, hired over the summer. They were given information on the district's policies, procedures and practices, as well as lesson planning assistance from the supervisors of their respective departments.

Workshops were also held for administrators and supervisors, as well as the new secretaries, to go over procedures and documentation.

Dr. Choye reported that more stringent efforts were being implemented to insure consistency of data recording between schools, as well as a stricter enforcement of residency requirements.

The total enrollment for the new school year was close to the enrollment figure at the end of the year. Exact numbers would not be calculated or announced until after school began, to get a more accurate count, Dr. Choye said. The numbers would be assessed after the first week, in order to calculate staff allocations, with aides possibly added to larger classrooms.

During the public portion of the meeting, Scotch Plains resident Myrna Gordon asked the board to think ahead to the negotiating process regarding medical benefits for teachers. She said that the board should take into account the economy, taxes and what other districts and corporations have been doing to cut costs.

Mrs. Gordon suggested that teachers should have to either contribute more to their benefits packages or be put into cost-saving HMOs.

Board member Thomas Russo agreed with Mrs. Gordon that medical benefits have become very costly and assured her that the board was doing all that it could to negotiate cost reductions.

Mrs. Gordon also asked the board why letters endorsing the budget were sent out on district stationary. She said that politics should not be endorsed by board members.

Board member Edward Saridaki said those letters were mailed out by the Parent-Teacher Association and not sent on official, district letterhead paper.

Mrs. Gordon also said that she was appalled by the way students were permitted to dress and that the board should consider enforcing a stricter dress code. She said that most parents would favor a dress code, as inappropriate dress was a discipline problem and a distraction.

Mr. Russo responded that the district had a dress code, but that the Supreme Court has ruled that some restrictions were a violation of students' rights and that styles change with the times.

Mrs. Gordon retorted that some public schools have adopted uniforms, despite Supreme Court rulings.

"I am sure Dr. Heisey will do whatever he can to enforce the dress code, but uniforms are not going to happen here," Mr. Russo replied.

A total of $3.5 million for out of district, special education placements was approved by the board. Board members asked why the out of district placements sometimes fluctuated by as much as $30,000 for the same disability classification.

District Director of Special Services Thomas Beese explained that each placement varied in the types of services and programs offered at different schools, and that there were different degrees of disability within each classification.

Each placement and the services given were individualized to each student's unique needs, he said.

Board member Trip Whitehouse asked why the district couldn't hire its own special education teachers to provide services when the costs for several students under one classification totaled more than one special education teacher's salary.

Mr. Beese explained that this was being done in a few areas, such as special education for autism, being taught in the district.

However, he said that there were other costs involved other than just teachers' salaries for some students, such as therapeutic and psychological or evaluation services, which the district could not provide. Some schools have in-house, special assessment teams and other incidental types of therapies, which would not be cost effective for the district to provide.

"That is being done whenever possible," Mr. Beese said. "We have developed programs, but we also have to consider whether we can follow through on these special education programs from Kindergarten through grade 12 for special needs students."

Mr. Beese also reported on the new Resolve Community Counseling Center program that will be implemented in the district. Resolve provides students with crisis intervention and prevention counseling from licensed therapists. The new program will feature more frequent prevention and intervention programs, and more time spent with each student. The idea is to attempt to forestall the necessity of "crisis" intervention by providing services in a prevention mode, Mr. Beese reported. The Resolve program will cost the district $70,000 for the year.

Mr. Saradaki reported that the additional, "Extraordinary Aid" from the state, in the amount of $241,681, must be applied to reducing taxes for the 2004 year, according to the state's budgetary language.

However, this extraordinary aid was initially promised by the state to cover the tuition for special education students, which exceeds $40,000 per student. Therefore, the tax benefits of this money, spread over the entire, taxpaying population, will be offset by the district's need to recoup the money from taxpayers in order to cover the cost of these mandated services, thereby eliminating any actual tax relief.

"This kind of shell game is exactly what McGreevey is famous for," Mr. Saradaki remarked. "We ought to have a recall election of our own."

Extraordinary aid included separate funds for various Title programs, including a $2 check to cover Title II, Part D from the state.

Mr. Saradaki also reported that the budgetary committee will discuss the budget at its September meeting. He said that to compensate for the shortfall of aid from the state, the district would have to tighten its belts or ask the taxpayers to make up the difference.

Pat Connor for *The Times*

AROUND AND AROUND WE GO…The 29th Annual UNICO/St. Bartholomew Labor Day Italian Festival brightened up the spirits of Labor Day weekend revelers with rides such as the Ferris Wheel, and a delicious array of ethnic foods.

WF Council Updated On Turf Field Proposal

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- At Tuesday night's Westfield Town Council conference session, Recreation Commission Chairman Keith Hertell presented an update on the proposed lighted artificial turf field and received the council's permission to continue researching the project.

The commission is proposing that the field be built on a portion of the land at the Conservation Center on Lamberts Mill Road.

Mr. Hertell said, "The initial wetlands delineation survey reveals there is enough room for both the operations of the DPW (Department of Public Works) activities and a lighted artificial turf field." He also stressed the need for an additional field in town.

Mr. Hertell has already arranged a meeting with the Scotch Plains residents who border the site on Thursday, September 18, to discuss issues of traffic, noise, lights and smell.

Mr. Hertell said that he will ask the Westfield Board of Education for $400,000 to assist in financing the field and in exchange they will have set time on the field.

He met with school board member Kimberly Rhodes and held preliminary discussions with Board Secretary/Business Administrator Robert Berman and Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley.

Maps were also shown for the issue of wetlands, which take up a portion of the property.

According to Recreation Department Director Bruce Kaufmann, some of the wetlands can be filled in.

Mr. Hertell stated that the commission is still waiting to find out how far back into the "swell" the Department of Environmental Protection will allow them to fill.

Town Administrator James Gildea stated that once the wetlands delineation is complete the area where the field, stands and parking area will be staked out so that it can be determined how much impact there will be on the current DPW operation.

Mayor McDermott expressed concerns about the odor as well as traffic.

Mr. Hertell stated that the odor will be encapsulated under the field and parking lot.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh stated that, in the summer, grass being dropped off can start to smell quickly.

Fourth Ward Democrat Councilman Larry Goldman suggested that if the town is going to partner with the school board, the field at Kehler Stadium should be looked at as it is "underutilized."

According to Mr. Hertell, Dr. Foley suggested the field behind Edison Intermediate School for the project.

Mr. Kaufmann added that, because the track is at Kehler Stadium, lacrosse could not be played at the same time as the High School Federation bans the duel use.

The council ultimately granted permission for the commission to continue with their work on the project. However, the commission will continue its research through monies donated by the Westfield Soccer Association.

Some council members also expressed disappointment that the Conservation Center was the only site available for the town.

Fourth Ward Democrat Councilwoman Susan Jacobson expressed concern that money has been solicited from user groups and that there is a "sense of anticipation that this will happen" when the council has not yet committed the funding.

She stated that if the council decides to undertake the currently proposed parking projects, there could be tighter fiscal restraints for other projects.

Mr. Hertell will ask the town for $1.1 million for the field in next year's capital budget requests.

A traffic study on the proposal will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

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should ultimately be made by the local Planning Board.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins pointed out that moving away from the SID option and toward the other alternative would mean a redevelopment process that could take years to complete.

Mayor Martin Marks, while saying that no option should be completely ruled out, urged Mrs. Malool to press downtown businesspeople to stay on the present course and give serious consideration to the SID alternative.

In other matters, Mr. Atkins told the council that the road repaving work on West Broad Street was completed last week, but that completion of the roadwork on Westfield Road is still several days away.

In an effort to ease the situations in front of Brunner Elementary School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, given the start of the school year, the section of Westfield Road from Westfield Avenue to Homestead Terrace was resurfaced last week.

The remaining stretch of road is expected to be completed this week and next week, weather permitting. There is still other work to be done on the Fanwood side of Westfield Road, Mr. Atkins emphasized.

Township finance officials will be looking into the potential benefits of the township endorsing a discount prescription drug plan for residents lacking insurance.

Several dozen New Jersey communities participate in Garden State Pharmacy Owners Provider Services Corp. (GSPOPS) in which residents pay $20 annually to take part in a discount prescription program.

No nearby towns do so, but Clark is considering it. At Tuesday night's meeting, two council members, Frank Rossi and Paulette Coronato, expressed some skepticism about the program, wondering if it was necessary for the local government to give its endorsement.

In addition, Mr. Atkins said the communications system at the firehouse on the south side of Scotch Plains is being examined, with the intent being to upgrade it so that problems with radio communications and transmissions can be eliminated.

Noting that the present antenna system is several decades old, Mr. Atkins told the council that a consulting engineer has been looking at possible upgrades and met this week with township officials. It is expected that recommendations will be forthcoming in the near future.

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erly maintained. However, there was some discussion as to whether the owners could be charged if the borough performs the maintenance.

Residents in attendance were skeptical about the effectiveness of the system and questioned whether its runoff would cause the Cedar Brook to peak sooner, or whether the flooding would last longer.

Mr. Du Pont replied that it would not, reiterating several times that by law, the development cannot make flooding in the area worse.

"We are really trying to address everything and make the best system we can," said Mr. Du Pont, in response to continued questions as to whether the drainage system was going to negatively impact flooding.

Also testifying on behalf of the applicant was George Jay Cosentino, a certified landscape architect, regarding Woodcliff's tree replacement plan. Neighbors had previously expressed concerns that the applicant was planning on clear cutting the land unnecessarily.

In his testimony, Mr. Cosentino stated that he had inspected the site as to the number and condition of the trees, and determined that of the 145 trees on site, 139 trees needed to be removed, and only six trees could be saved.

Of those being removed, he deemed 69 trees to be exempt from the borough's tree replacement ordinance, as they were either dead, in poor condition or in the right of way. Under the ordinance, the applicant would be required to replace 95 trees, but he had determined that the site could only accommodate 48 trees: eight street trees, six shade trees, five flowering trees and 29 evergreens.

Mr. Cosentino noted that his plans were drawn before the relocation of the drainage system, and in light of that revision, the applicant would now have to eliminate five of the trees it had originally hoped to save.

"You are saying that you can only save one tree on the entire lot?" asked Board Chairman Gregory Cummings.

Mr. Cosentino replied that was the case, due to the amount of improvements planned for the property, but he also noted that most were not quality specimens, having sustained broken branches.

Mr. Cummings also asked Mr. Cosentino how many additional trees could be saved if only three houses were built. He replied that although he had not done those calculations, he believed that only a few more could be saved.

It was discussed that if the applicant could not replace the requisite 95 trees, it could either provide monetary consideration to the borough or purchase trees to be planted in other locations.

Some board members also commented that they were not happy with the choice of street trees planned – callery pears – as they were not in keeping with the typical trees in Fanwood.

Mr. Cosentino is scheduled to meet with members of the Shade Tree Commission on Tuesday, September 9, to discuss the tree replacement plan, after which time, the commission will issue a report to the board.

The hearing will continue, with additional testimony from Mr. Cosentino, at the next meeting of the Planning Board, on Wednesday, September 24, at 8 p.m.