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Allendale Press

Mayor Johnson

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Local Planning Board Concludes Public Hearings

An Open Letter To The Planning Board

The public hearings of the proposed Master Plan were concluded Tuesday. While these hearings were interesting, we are glad to see them finished. No doubt you were too.

We understand you called these meetings to learn how the residents of Allendale felt toward the plan. After these three meetings we think you know, and after talking to many people we too think we know how folks feel.

Frankly, they do not like your plan in its entirety. Neither do we. Naturally there are those who are in favor of it as is, but there are an equally large number who don't want any part of it. But what about those who like some part of it? This is the majority of resident taxpayers. They have not been vocal though they need a spokesman and that is why we are writing this letter to you.

Take the school and park development sections. Folks want you to think of the future needs for school locations but since this a school board problem and the board will come to the voters for operating monies, and when needed pick a spot for a second school and if needed for the third. It is wise to know the need for school areas but is it necessary to mark them down on a map? The school board has given our children sound education in the past. The taxpayers have a feeling they are equally capable of selecting a spot for the future school.

Everybody likes parks, but they cost money whether maintained or left in their natural state. We know the folks for whom we speak are afraid the borough can't afford such large areas as shown on the maps. How about cutting these down in number and size?

On zoning, there seems to be a general agreement that zoning is your answer to most of the problems that face the town today and what you have called the core of the matter. Naturally large land owners are not keen for any restriction that will keep their property from bringing the largest return but even the largest property owner feels that some regulations are needed. We have the lot sizes now on our books and a properly considered ordinance can set up locations for such a regulation. The building inspector can oversee the building and regulations.

Your program of streets has one feature that most folks don't like. That is the Brookside-Hillside plan. Everybody is against cutting the school and recreation field apart. Possibly later the views will change but not now. Throw it out.

Of course this throws the proposal for a municipal parking lot and a civic center behind the business section out in the cold. But there is plenty of vacant land. It shouldn't be hard to secure a location for such a building.

The financial section of the program seems to hinge on the amount of public work undertaken on each project. We feel that this can be left in the hands of the mayor and council.

In a quick summary, people appreciate the need for a plan and are happy you as public spirited citizens did it. They approve your hiring of consultants but they don't approve of the entire plan. These middle-of-the-roaders know they want some part of the plan and feel that the opposition to the plan will cause the entire effort to be tossed out. This they do not want. They look for a down to earth approach to the problems that have given other communities headaches. They would like a revision of the plan, something they can understand. They need a plan, they want a plan. You cannot let them down.

JAMES E. MARTIN, Publisher

Final Session Sees Opposition To Master Plan Fully Organized

The opposition to Allendale's Master Plan, now an organized group, closed ranks this week and their attacks on the plan became more intense. Supporters of the plan, as might be expected, have not been as vocal, and it now seems certain that the final test will come in a voters' referendum.

The organized opposition has lost no time in circulating petitions asking that the Master Plan be presented on the ballot next November on a flat "accept or reject" basis. Their strategy seems to be that in presenting the plan as an all-or-nothing question they will get added support from citizens who, although they might agree in general with the plan, will vote against it because of disagreement with specific details.

In the third public meeting, held at the Public School auditorium Tuesday evening, the opposition showed signs of strength and times their arguments were bitter. An estimated 200 persons attended the meeting; of these perhaps 30 spoke their views. A dozen or more of those in the audience, leaders of the opposition group were represented by Michael Dwyer, a Ridgewood attorney. Francis X. Scafuro, as Planning Board Chairman, was chairman of the meeting and he and Mayor Leslie Johnson, Mrs. Helen Hanson, L. R. McPeck, Fred Richerich and Werner Baarck, Planning Board members, attempted to correct misconceptions expressed by speakers and to answer their questions about the proposed plan.

In a meeting which lasted just under three hours, feelings and words waxed warm and Chairman Scafuro's gavel beat a frequent tattoo on the linoleum topped table. It was an orderly meeting, but the discussion, which started on the Civic Center proposal (p. 22 of the plan) never got beyond that section. Mr. Scafuro dealt briefly with the financial section of the plan, explaining that it was impossible to deal with figures projected for the future since they were not binding and were no more than informed guesses.

The discussion, for the most part, consisted of arguments by property owners against proposals which might affect their own parcels of property.

One man complained that a proposed roadway would intersect his property. Another sought to find why a portion of his land has been designated as part of an area to be purchased by the town for school use in the future. These and others seemed to be driving at a point put into more concise form by C. B. Hutchinson, W. Maple St., who asked Mr. Scafuro if it were not true that an "official map" accompanying the plan and showing the improvements and changes would prejudice the minds of

NOW A COLUMNIST



Miss Marie Quackenbush

Miss Marie Quackenbush, a native daughter, is the newest addition to the columns of the Press. Her column of topics, chosen by her will appear in each week's paper starting today. We welcome her and think you will find the column interesting and thought provoking. Suggestions and criticisms are welcomed and a letter sent either here or to her home will receive a speedy reply.

LOSS OF 4 TREES AROUSES CITIZENS

Four maple trees, which were cut down last week to make way for the new parking plaza, came up for discussion at the public hearing on the proposed Master Plan held

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PETITIONS WOULD PLACE PROPOSAL ON LOCAL BALLOT

A petition, drafted by Michael Dwyer, Ridgewood attorney, for the organized opposition to the Master Plan was put in circulation early Wednesday morning following the third public hearing on the proposed Master Plan.

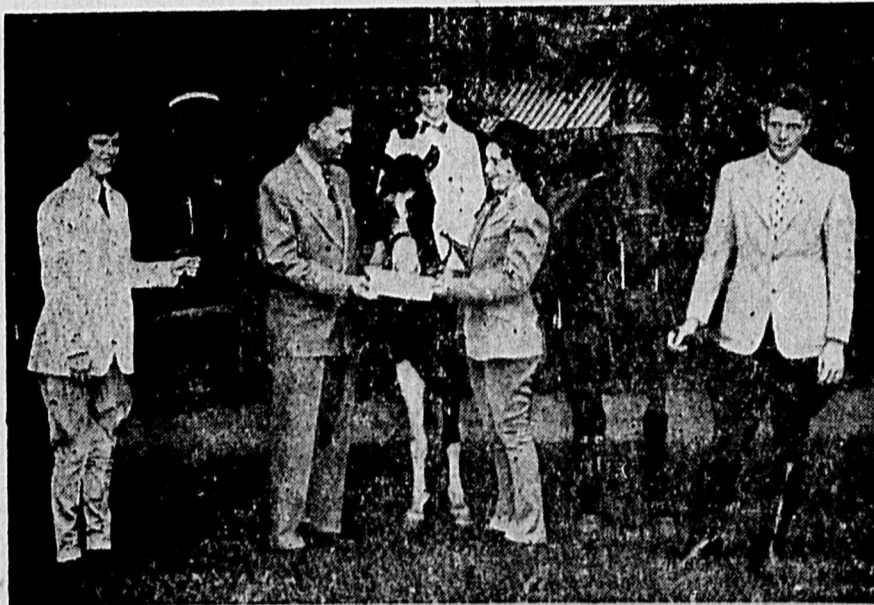
Ten copies, with places for 75 signatures each, are out over town. It is hoped by proponents of the petition that they can get over 600 registered voters to sign, although only 10 percent of the total (1,100) are necessary to put the Master Plan on the ballot in Nov.

COUNCIL TO DISCUSS CRESCENT AVENUE AT NEXT MEETING

Mayor Leslie Johnson announced that at the council meeting to be held next Thursday, August 14, at the War Memorial Building, at 8 p.m. the council will receive the recommendations of the special three man board of assessors on the Crescent Avenue improvement project.

All citizens interested in this report are invited to attend.

Proceeds Given To Polio Victims



Miss Barbara Walter, president, presenting check to Dr. Little at the Walter home. Pictured in the usual manner are Miss Claudia Crothers, Dr. Little, Miss Kathy Crothers, Miss Walter and Jack Coogan. Story on page six Turner Photo

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TREE REMOVAL

(Continued From Page One)
Tuesday evening at the school auditorium.

Roy Quackenbush, Powell Road, who said he was born in Allendale and is known to represent a family which has lived here since the town was first established, asked why the four maples had been removed.

In Mr. Quackenbush's judgment it was a mistake he said,

PLANNING BOARD

message to the people explained that land for future schools would be acquired when, and if, possible, and would be left in its natural woodland state until such time as it was needed. The park areas were not proposed as "manicured" parks, with lawns and paths, but rather as forestland which could be used by the town in an unimproved state. (like the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for outdoor work.) She concluded her remarks by saying that nothing she has heard since she drafted her speech has made her change her mind about the wisdom of the Master Plan regarding proposed parks.

The strongest criticism of the proposed Civic Center came from Ernest Arlt, 40 W. Crescent Ave., who said the location was poor. The railroad running by the proposed site presents a 27 foot embankment and beyond that only the view of a lumber yard and coal yard. Also, as experience of holding public meetings in the Fire House has shown, the noise of passing trains would prohibit the use of movies in the Civic Center and interrupt any speaker trying to address a public meeting.

Fred Pfister, Franklin Turn-

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to have taken down three of the four trees because he said it hurt him to see 100 year old trees destroyed. He stated that he had served as Shade Tree Commissioner in Allendale for 12 years and he "knew practically every shade tree in town".

Councilwoman Helen Hansen explained that the trees were removed for three reasons: 1) two trees were said to be "dead at the heart" by George Prince, Shade Tree Commissioner. 2) One tree had to be removed for the Erie right of way which was so stated in the contract the council signed when they purchased the property from the Erie. 3) The one remaining tree stood in the path of Rockland Electric's wires and Rockland Electric agreed to take down all the trees free of charge.

C. Cavanagh Jr., Myrtle Avenue testified that he had been a tree surgeon for twenty years and in his judgment only one of the four trees should have been condemned. "The other three were solid", he said, "and if you don't believe me go down and look at them all cut up."

George Christopher, former Mayor, seized on the tree removal as an example of "unwise planning" in his remarks directed against the Master Plan.

Mayor Johnson disentangled the Planning Board from any part in the tree removal by saying that he and the Borough Council authorized the work with the full knowledge and advice of Harvey Beswick, Borough engineer.

pike, asked why his property had been designated as a future school site. Mr. Scafuro assured him that his wishes would be properly considered in any future school planning.

George Price suggested that school areas might be circled on the map, rather than pinpointed, in order that no one feel that the sites had already been decided.

Marie Quackenbush, who said she has read the plan 30 times because "it fascinated" her, asked if sufficient facts on matters of health, safety and business had been gathered by the planning consultants. She indicated that from her own investigations people directly concerned with these matters had not been consulted.

Helmuth Falcke, Brookside Avenue, spoke in defense of the Planning Board which had zoned the town and done much to protect its rural quality. He admitted that certain parts of the Master plan "frightened" him, but appreciated the work done by the board in the past.

In connection with his remarks it was brought out by Werner Baarek, building inspector, that he had denied 253 requests for building permits on the basis that they did not conform with building or zoning regulations.

Ralph Norton, Hillside Avenue, advised Chairman Scafuro that he ought to "sell" his plan to the people of Allendale instead of giving the impression that it was unalterable.

The meeting ended on a peremptory note, despite Parnell Thomas' objections and criticisms voiced later by some disinterested members of the audience. Chairman Scafuro closed the public hearing just one minute behind schedule at 11.31 p.m. He also announced, over obvious opposition, that there

SPAS WIN GAME 9-8

Allendale Spa softball team came from behind a 7-0 deficit to trounce the previously unsuccessful 9 to 8 in an extra inning game last night at the local park.

Dunnigan had won 21 straight and are considered the outstanding team in this area.

Allendale had heroes galore in this game. In the fourth inning with the score 7 to 0 against them in what looked like a hopeless cause, Mgr. Nat Leff put in Charley Schubert, Ed Morgan and Ralph Scafuro all local boys in the game. This move seemed to set the team great defensive ball and going on to hit hard and win.

Dom Magro was the star, hitting in the winning run in the 9th with Red Coles on base as darkness was about to halt the game. Bill Schaefer with a homer and double and Coles with 3 doubles were the game's hitting stars. Rink Vanderbush did the pitching allowing only 1 hit over the last 4 innings. Fuzzy Miller did the catching.

A son, Glen Alfred was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Baumgartner Jr. of 196 Franklin Avenue on July 26 at Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern, N. Y. The baby has a brother, Richard Joseph, age four and a half. Mrs. Baumgartner is the former Catherine Hoffman of Allendale.

would be no more hearings on the plan.

It could not be learned what modifications, if any, will be made in the plan before it is presented to the Council, although it is known that some of the Planning Board members are loathe to make detailed changes in the report, on which they have worked for two and one-half years.

N. J. PONY LEAGUE PRESENTS \$200 TO BERGEN PINES

Dr. Rufus R. Little, Superintendent of Bergen Pines County Hospital expressed deep appreciation to members of the North Jersey Horse and Pony League for their gift of \$200 presented Monday.

The money was raised by the young people at their second annual horse show held in June. It represented the profits made from attendance and entry fees and was given to Bergen Pines for their Polio ward.

Dr. Little said that the gift was gratefully received as much for the spirit in which it was given, as for its amount. He complimented members of the Horse and Pony League for their generosity and great charity in thinking of other children who may never know the joys of horsemanship.

The money will be used to buy the smaller items needed to make polio patients more comfortable. One case in particular, a boy who has been in the hospital for over a year, will be provided a special chair to sit in when he is out of bed. Other things, such as reading lamps, radios, and items designed to make the rooms more homelike will be purchased for the young people confined to the hospital.

Final services will be held this afternoon from Van Emburghs funeral home at 2 for Herbert Stimpson, 78, of Franklin Turnpike who passed away Tuesday.

Mr. Simpson, a resident of Allendale for 40 years formerly operated a butcher shop in town. He is survived by his widow Rosalie and a daughter Ruth. Local firemen attended in a body last night.

LEWIS JONES HURT

Lewis Jones, of Franklin Turnpike, fell off the step of his home on Monday and suffered deep lacerations of the head and hands. He was taken to Valley Hospital for treatment.

Baby Karen Kwasicki was born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kwasicki of Myrtle Avenue on July 24 at Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern, N. Y.

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