

NJAPZA



SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: FRANK VUOSO

MAY 2015

Off to a Good Start...But NJAPZA Needs YOU!

By Frank Vuoso, NJAPZA President

If the last few months are any indication, 2015 will be a banner year for NJAPZA. Why do I say this? Membership renewals are being sent in at a record pace, and many of you have expressed a desire to get more involved on your applications.

The Education Committee has met and planned both a webinar and a live seminar. The webinar was offered on April 24 in cooperation with the NJ State League of Municipalities and attracted 89 participants. A seminar on abandoned and foreclosed properties will be offered later this spring and again in the fall. The Association worked closely with Rutgers to identify timely, relevant topics for the annual **Current Issues in Planning and Zoning Conference**, which will take place on **June 12 in Eatontown**. Due to the popularity of the event, we have chosen a new location to accommodate the growing number of attendees!

All this early activity leads me to believe that Year 26 will be not just a good one, but a great one for the Association. And there's more to come! But, NJAPZA's success will depend on the membership. We need you to get involved, whether it's attending a seminar, serving on a committee, writing an article for the newsletter, or encouraging someone from a neighboring municipality to join the Association.

So, if you get an email or a phone call inviting you to participate in an NJAPZA activity, I hope you will agree to do so. All of us are busy, but just a little of your time will make a big difference this year and into the future. My advice is to get involved and stay tuned.

The Executive Board and I invite all our members to become more active in NJAPZA! The Association succeeds because of active volunteers. Please contact me, Frank Vuoso at

fvuoso@somervillenj.org if you are ready to get involved!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE IS SEEKING SUGGESTIONS

We are planning our very first networking event, which will take place on a Thursday evening this summer somewhere in Central Jersey. We'd like a casual venue with good food, drink, music (?), and where we could occupy a private room.

We are thinking Woodbridge Township, but all location ideas are welcome! Email any nominations to Jackie Zelinka at jzelinka@gmail.com no later than May 31.

IMPORTANT DATES:

NEW LOCATION!!

Register now! Annual Conference "Current Issues in Planning and Zoning" will be held at Pacific Concord Hotel (Sheraton Eatontown) Conference date is Friday June 12, 2015

Join us! The Annual Luncheon Meeting at the NJLM Convention will be held on Wednesday November 18, 2015

The NJP0 2015 Achievement in Planning Awards to be announced.

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WWW.NJAPZA.ORG

REGISTER NOW! [NEW LOCATION!!](#)

The Annual NJAPZA Conference “Current Issues in Planning Zoning”

Friday, June 12, 2015 - Pacific Concord Hotel (Sheraton Eatontown)

6 Industrial Way E, Eatontown, NJ 07724—<http://www.sheratoneatontown.com/>

Spring Brings Educational Opportunities

Spring brings shower, flowers, and a variety of educational opportunities for NJAPZA members seeking Rutgers continuing education credits. NJAPZA’s 2015 strategic plan calls for the development of webinars, and our first one was offered on April 24 in partnership with the NJ State League of Municipalities. Peter Steck, PP, and Susan Rubright, Esq. discussed “d” variances for an hour, and those who signed up and “attended” earned 1 CE hour of technical credit while sitting at their desks and listening to the online presentation.

On May 15 the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey will offer a half-day workshop in Morris County on how to deal with foreclosed and abandoned residential properties. This session is open exclusively to NJAPZA members and will be repeated in the fall in Burlington County. You may register by going to the NJAPZA website homepage and clicking on the link in the Continuing Education column.

The 15th annual Current Issues in Planning and Zoning Conference will be held on Friday, **June 12 at the Pacific Concord Hotel (formerly the Eatontown Sheraton)**. The Center for Government Services and the Rutgers Planning/Zoning Advisory Committee have planned a full day of topics for board secretaries, land use administrators and zoning officials that offers 5 hours of technical CE credits. Topics include an ethics refresher, Lou Rago’s case law update, COAH and the Right to Farm Act. You may register by going to our website home page and clicking on the link or to the CGS website at <http://cgs.rutgers.edu/planningzoning>.

From the Desk Of...

How Are We Doing?

By Jackie Zelinka, Executive Director

I hope you are all aware that last November the Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan for 2015. It is great to set ambitious objectives, but the old adage about plans is that once they have been written, they often just get put on a shelf to gather dust. One way for NJAPZA to prevent that from happening is to monitor where things stand. So, the following is an update on what progress we've made toward accomplishing our 2015 objectives.

Goal No. 1: Undertake outreach efforts to strengthen relations with current partners and stakeholders

We are in discussions with New Jersey Planning Officials about ways we could work together, and we have co-sponsored a webinar with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Goal No. 2: Undertake outreach efforts to potential new members currently working in municipal and county government

The newly formed Membership Committee will be contacting all those attendees at last year's annual Current Issues Conference and will invite them to join the Association.

Goal No. 3: Undertake public relations efforts that will enhance the visibility and recognition of the organization and its members throughout the state

The Board of Directors has included funding in this year's budget for a high-quality brochure that will explain who we are and what the Association stands for.

Goal No. 4: Improve communication with the membership

Email blasts are being sent to the membership on a regular basis with information about upcoming events and educational opportunities.

Goal No. 5: Increase educational programming

A half-day seminar entitled "Getting It Right" was held in Ocean County last December, and a session on foreclosed and abandoned properties is being offered on May 15 in Morris County. Several more programs are in the works.

Goal No. 6: Develop a grass roots lobbying effort that will lead to mandatory certification

An Ad Hoc Certification Committee has been appointed and has begun meeting.

Goal No. 7: Develop networking opportunities for members

The Membership Committee is working on a summer event to be held in Central Jersey.

Goal No. 8: Increase member involvement in organizational governance

Many of you expressed interest in volunteering on your 2015 membership applications. Several committees have been appointed and are meeting, including Membership and Education, and a Newsletter Committee is being formed.

The Mentor Program is being reevaluated, and it is anticipated that a Mentor Program Committee will be appointed once the new program guidelines have been finalized.

Goal No. 9: Pursue partnerships with other planning and affordable housing organizations

No activity has occurred yet toward reaching this goal.

RESPONSES REQUESTED!

Do you think that we are making good progress toward accomplishing our goals for the year? Your comments, suggestions, and criticisms are welcome, and you can send them to me at

irzelinka@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Membership—GEORGE WATERMAN

Editor's Note: The Membership Committee has suggested that one way for the members to get to know each other better is to profile someone in the Association newsletter from time to time. Who better to kick off the series than George Waterman, the new chair of the Committee?

George Waterman has been a member of NJAPZA for almost 8 years and was appointed Membership Chair in 2014. He entered the field of land use and zoning enforcement in 2005 when he decided to change careers. He had graduated from St. Rose High School and received two Associates degrees from Brookdale Community College, one in Math/Science, and another in Sociology/Psychology. He had reached to the top rung of the career ladder at Jersey Shore Hospital as a trauma technician and could not afford medical school.

Through word of mouth, he heard about an opening in his hometown of Neptune Township for a compliance officer position and decided to try his hand at zoning enforcement. After three rounds of interviews he was offered the job and found that it was a good fit. He currently holds the title of Zoning Officer. He reports to the Tax Assessor, who also holds the title of Land Use Administrator, and works with Sean Arias, Assistant Zoning Officer, who helps out with inspections and processing applications.

While acclimating to the job, George discovered the Rutgers-CGS certificate program for zoning officials and completed it. He says his biggest challenge was “to learn the ins and outs of what the zoning ordinance said on paper and convert that to actual situations in the field.” He has enjoyed working with the administration and elected officials to craft ordinance amendments that benefit the community and says that he tries to bring the perspective of the residents and property owners to that process.

But, George says he also has learned that “you can’t please all of the people all of the time.” He feels that the zoning enforcement process should acknowledge the community’s social norms but that, ultimately, his job is to seek compliance with the legislated standards and requirements.

George has high expectations for the Membership Committee this year. He hopes it can organize opportunities for those who belong to the Association to get together on a social basis. “We each have our own enforcement problems,” he said, “but being able to get together with others in the same field helps to de-stress.” He also is happy to be a part of efforts to increase NJAPZA’s impact statewide and make it a bigger, better organization.

As to the future, George would like to remain working in the land use field. He hopes to someday have the opportunity to acquire the board administration experience necessary to qualify for the Land Use Administrator designation. However, he hasn’t completely lost his interest in medicine. He has been a volunteer EMT in Neptune for twenty years and currently serves as the assistant coordinator for the Township’s Emergency Medical Service.

When he’s not working as a zoning officer or volunteering as an EMT, George relaxes by playing billiards and practicing his saxophone.

SAVE THE DATE!

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING –
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015**

**AT CAESAR’S PALLADIUM BALLROOM C
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY 2100 Pacific Avenue**

The NJAPZA Annual Luncheon Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 in the Palladium C Ballroom of Caesar’s in Atlantic City. Registration will begin at 11:30 A.M. and the luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon (sharp!). The NJAPZA league educational session will immediately follow the luncheon. Certification credits will be issued to all certified Board Secretaries, Land Use Administrators and Zoning Officials who attend the entire educational



You are reminded that informational packets are no longer mailed to members. Additional details and registration information will be posted on our website as the date nears.

Co-Chairs Dawn Wolfe and Kali Tsimboukis have begun initial preparation to ensure a delicious luncheon, informative league session, and a surprise for all attendees to take home!

NJAPZA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Frank Vuoso, President – Somerville Borough
Mike Proietti, Vice President – North Brunswick
Bonnie Imposimato, Treasurer – Holmdel Township
Elaine Petrillo, Corresponding Secretary – Pt. Pleasant
Meghan Hunscher, Recording Secretary – Morris County
Lou Rago, Esq. – General Counsel

Adele Lewis & George Waterman (Membership), Ilene Cutroneo (Education), Meghan Hunscher (Newsletter), Dawn Wolfe & Kali Tsimboukis (Convention), Kali Tsimboukis (Public Relations), Laura Flagg (Rutgers Rep)

