

Franklin Borough Planning Board

Meeting Minutes for

January 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Christiano, who then led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mr. Christiano Statement of Compliance pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, PL 1975."

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

John Christiano – Chairman (Present)
John Friend – Vice Chairman (Present)
Wes Suckey (Present)
Jim Williams (Present)
James Nidelko (Present)
Michael Raperto (Absent)
Floy Estes (Present)
Councilman Concetto Formica (Present)
Mayor John Sowden (Present)
Sharon Schultz, Alternate 1 (Present)
James Affinito, Alternate # 2 (Absent)
Keri Marino, Alternate # 3 (Present)
George Drossel, Alternate # 4 (Present)

ALSO, PRESENT:

Robert Correale, Planning Board Attorney

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the Escrow Report for January 21, 2025.

Seconded by **Mr. Friend**

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES: **Christiano, Friend, Nidelko, Suckey, Estes, Williams, Schultz, Marino**

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

APPLICATIONS FOR COMPLETENESS:

There were none.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION:

There were none.

APPLICATIONS TO BE HEARD:

There were none

DISCUSSION:

Rails to Trails Update from Mayor Sowden.

Mayor Sowden gave the board a brief update on the status of the Rails to Trails project.

Mayor Sowden passed out a map for the board members to look at to give them a better picture of where the trails will be in Franklin as well as other surrounding towns who take the opportunity to join their properties onto the trails. Mr. Sowden stated that they have started clearing out some of the brush and areas of the trail and come spring the committee would welcome any volunteers to come out and give some time to help work on clearing some more trails.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Schultz asked if the board was going to move on with the COAH obligations. The A4 & S50 have been passed by the assembly. Ms. Schultz explained if the board does not respond to the original numbers that were given the town could be stuck with them and if Ms. Schultz remembered correctly those numbers were incredibly high for our small town.

The board members briefly discussed that there is so little property left for such high numbers.

Ms. Schultz just wants to make sure that we do our diligence.

Mr. Formica stated that this would be discussed at next week's council meeting. Mr. Formica stated that Jessica Caldwell was able to lower the numbers by a lot. They are still relatively high for our small town but definitely a lower number than the original numbers that were presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Christiano opened the meeting to the public. Not seeing anyone in the audience Mr. Christiano closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Sowden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Friend** seconded it.

All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:57

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Babcock
Planning Board Secretary