

WESTTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MTG: 1/24/2017 @ RUSTIN

RE:CREBILLY

Comments by Mr. Pomerantz, Planning Commission Chair

A couple of thoughts & housekeeping items of importance:

First, has been mentioned before, thank you for your continuing interest, concern and most importantly your involvement.

This being the fourth of five meetings scheduled for the PC to review and discuss the proposed Crebilly/Toll development, today's meeting will deal with issues of real substance, and something unique, and what I personally hope will be a robust period of public questions and comments.

Of prime significance is a reminder that our fifth meeting will be a Stetson on 2/9, during which you will witness the decision-making process of the PC...as it relates to what this body of fellow residents will be recommending to the BOS.

After which your involvement will not stop there I trust, as the BOS will commence the next phase—CU HEARINGS—where witnesses representing the Township consultants and those of the Developer will be heard and cross examined, and the PC recommendations will be reviewed...culminating in a final decision by the BOS sometime in the future.

The first few dates of that crucial phase will be 2/22, 3/28, and 4/19. And to be sure, that will be the phase where the future of Crebilly will be decided.

Over the past few weeks, I can't speak for other PC members, but perhaps more so as the PC Chair, I have been approached by individuals and groups raising any number of issues...

There are three in particular I want to raise publicly for the sake of the public at large:

1) THE PC cannot associate or affiliate with any group or individual...no matter what our respective views on Crebilly might be...as I said previously everyone in this room: members of the public, the applicant/developer, the consultants and lawyers, the

Township staff ...the PC too of course have a job to do...OURS as the PC is mandated by law.

2) And if we can all look back at the end of this phase of the process and be able say to ourselves now...and have others say about our efforts ten and twenty years from now: that under very challenging circumstances of mandated limitations...with common sense they did the very very best they could do... for the residents, for the general population... for nature, and for future generations, the Township will have been well served.

3) Finally, not surprisingly I still get queries why can't the Planning Commission or the Township simply find a way to conserve all or part of Crebilly...or I am told by others: "I KNOW YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO THE RIGHT THING...BUT YOU WON'T DO IT."

The first time we heard the latter was at a PC meeting even before these public meetings had formally begun.

How best to respond...other than to say: "I wish that were true and had a magic wand to make it happen"?

Perhaps the following comment will suffice...the words of Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands Trust...on the recent agreement of a land owner who recently entered into an agreement to protect in perpetuity 25 acres of his property...in honor of his late wife:

"CONSERVATION begins in the heart of a willing landowner...His decision to forever preserve his beautiful property is a testament to his love of nature and his generosity towards his community...In an area that's being swiftly developed, his choice to make nature a priority will have impact for generations to come."

To that landowner...and to all of you still fighting the good fight...good on ya!

In the interim, the Planning Commission is committed to do its job the best it can do it, by being the best it can be...