

**CLAYTON PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Clayton Planning Board was called to order at 7:30 PM. Invocation was given and we had a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW

The public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975 has been properly given in the following manner:

- A. Posting written notice on the Official Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building.
- B. Mailing written notice to the South Jersey Times and the Franklinville Sentinel.
- C. Filing written notices with the Clerk of the Borough of Clayton.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Abate, Branco, Glennon, Miller, B. Saban, T. Saban, Thomas, Vondran

Absent: Bianco, Fox

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/ B Saban, S/ Miller - Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Clayton Planning Board/Zoning Board held on November 18, 2019

Ayes: Abate, Branco, Glennon, Miller, B. Saban, Thomas

Abstain: T. Saban, Vondran

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Helping Hand Behavioral Health – 1080 N. Delsea Dr., a/k/a Block 1902, Lot 12

Dale Taylor, Esquire indicated that the board will have to be conducted as a zoning board. Therefore, both council members will have to remove themselves. Mr. Taylor represents the applicant, Helping Hand Behavioral Health. This application is for a legal interpretation. This falls under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70.b for an interpretation in regards to zoning maps and special questions.

Helping Hand Behavioral Health Center is located on North Delsea Dr., a/k/a Block 1902, Lot 12. Two people affiliated with Helping Hand are present tonight. They are Aaron Kreiswirth, Executive Director, and Jeffrey Clayton, Regional Director for Regional Programs. Both of them were sworn in by the solicitor.

In 2017, Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan approval was granted to Helping Hand. It was previously sales of office supplies and was converted to treat mentally challenged and people with addictions. Resolution 07-2017, which was adopted in March 2017, it recognized that the facility was to offer aid to adults suffering from addiction or mental illness. They are located in the HB zone and it is a permitted use. They are not asking for a use variance tonight. Currently they are treating patients with addiction which is a

permitted use. They are looking to expand their protocol and use methadone to treat people with opioid addiction. They are permitted to do that as a matter of right as the State of New Jersey has the sole authority and jurisdiction over methadone licensing. They are ready to issue them the right to do this as it is a recognized treatment. The State of NJ requires that there be some written confirmation that there is no prohibition in the Borough of Clayton in regards to the use of methadone. They require something in writing.

Methadone is very effective in opioid addiction. Some of the patients will get the meds on-site, some will get it to take home. They have to be in the program for a year and show they are responsible in order to take it home. They also have to be in the program to be able to get the methadone treatment at all. They will not just give it to anyone. Some people do drive themselves and others get bused. With this treatment, there will probably be more foot traffic. However, appointments will be scheduled like a doctor's office.

Mr. Clayton advised that methadone is identified as an effective treatment of opioid addiction. It has a success rate of about 60 to 70 percent effective. They want to provide another effective level of treatment. It is controlled by the State and the DEA. Again, they have to be in the program and they have to be provided counseling. If they complete the program and comply with all the rules, they get drug tested. They can then earn to be able to take prescribed bottles home. It can take up to three years to be able to take a bottle home.

Joe Abate asked how it is determined of who gets methadone. Mr. Clayton said they do offer other services. They do a diagnostic criteria. They have to demonstrate an opioid disorder for at least a year where other programs didn't work. If they have frequent relapses, they eventually offer this program. The methadone helps reduce the physiological craving, it reduces the illness due to withdraw, and it's also a blockage. If they use, they will not feel anything. Joe Abate asked how it is regulated. It is regulated by the DEA and their strict guidelines by the State and Federal. The DEA also performs audits of the clinics. The medication has to be locked in a safe in a locked room. There are specific guidelines and regulations to determine dosing. It is ordered through a Federal Pharmacy. It will be stored on site in the safe. It is delivered through a courier with the pharmaceutical company. The Board of Health can come in and regulate also.

In regards to safety, Mr. Clayton indicated that they will have to add a safe in the building and will have to add some things for security purposes. A dosing room will also have to be added. Some things will have to be modified before the program is offered. It will only be used at the North Delsea location and not used at the one on Pop Kramer Blvd.

Approximately 50 to 60 percent of their current clients have opioid use disorders. They are receiving other medications now. Maybe 10 to 15 percent would qualify for the methadone. A licensed professional counselor or licensed drug and alcohol counselor and the doctor would have to approve it. The doctor has the ultimate say.

Joe asked if they would coordinate with the police department and give them monthly reports. Dale Taylor answered that a lot of this is confidential and there is a limited amount of information that can be given. They will meet with the police department and it would probably be better if they tell the applicant what they need. In addition, the police department can inspect the property also.

The State does unannounced inspections probably two times a year. If there are any complaints, then the inspections are more often. Mr. Lozuke asked for clarification that it was mentioned that the prescription is contingent upon counseling. He wanted to know if this is a facility requirement or State requirement. He said it is both Federal and State guidelines. The State guidelines are usually stricter and that's what they go by. You have to be over 18 to be in this program. You have to come in for the doses.

Doug Akin, P.P. went through his letter dated December 4, 2019. Mr. Akin asked if there is a difference between a methadone clinic and this. He was advised that this is not strictly a methadone clinic. It will be a multi-use facility. They have other addiction protocols. This is not a pure methadone clinic and is on a selective basis. There will be no expansion of the facility. They will probably have additional patients. This also was not part of the original application.

Steve Branco asked about the treatment when they are driving themselves. Methadone doesn't impair the person and it is safe to drive. The hours of operation will not expand. People will not be able to walk in off of the street.

Sue Miller thanked them for coming and added that their roll there tonight was just to validate that their ordinance does not prohibit this.

Stan Bitgood, P.E. asked if it will be advertised. They were told no but maybe as a treatment for addiction but not as a methadone treatment center. They will not be changing the sign. There will never be treatment for emergencies after hours. They would have to go to the hospital. They advised that they may have to add a nurse or medical staff. The existing parking will be managed so there is no parking on the street.

Darlene Vondran asked if some clients are court ordered. She was told that 95% - 98% of their clients basically come on their own. The court wouldn't actually direct someone to this particular location. They can only court order that they need treatment.

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

M/ Miller , S/ B. Saban

Ayes: Unanimous

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC:

M/ Miller , S/ B. Saban

Ayes: Unanimous

MOTION TO APPROVE USE OF METHADONE AS A TREATMENT BY A LICENSED FACILITY AND THE BOROUGH DOES NOT PROHIBIT IT

Mr. Lozuke and Mr. Taylor briefly discussed about amending the original resolution from 2017

M/ Miller, S/ B. Saban

Ayes: Abate, Branco, Glennon, Miller, B. Saban, Thomas

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

RESOLUTIONS:

#10-2019 – Resolution Granting Minor Subdivision Approval to M&M Real Property, LLC – Block 1814, Lot 15

M/ B. Saban, S/ Miller

Ayes: Abate, Branco, Glennon, Miller, B. Saban, Thomas, Vondran

Abstain: T. Saban

#11-2019 – Resolution – Booras – Variances

Mr. Lozuke advised the Chairman that it will be provided next month.

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

M/ Abate, S/ T. Saban

Ayes: Unanimous

MOTION TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC:

M/ Vondran, S/ Miller

ADJOURNMENT

M/Vondran , S/ Miller

Ayes: Unanimous

Submitted by,



Debbie Schlosser

Planning Board Secretary