

**WORKSHOP SESSION of the Burrillville Town Council held Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 5:30 P.M. at the Burrillville Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville for and within the Town of Burrillville.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley and Ronald E. Faford.**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

**ALSO PRESENT: Planning Board: Chairman Ray Levesque, Leo Felice, Bruce Ferreira, Richard Lemek, Jeffrey Presbry; Planning Consultant Tony Lachowicz, Thomas J. Kravitz, Town Planner and Economic Development Coordinator.**

**Note: The Burrillville Planning Board and Burrillville Zoning Board were invited to participate in the workshop.**

**Relative to discussion proposed amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance which allow for conservation development.**

**Thomas J. Kravitz, Town Planner and Economic Development Coordinator, recognized Mr. Lachowicz and members of the Planning Board. A video explaining Conservation Design/Development was**

presented.

Mr. Kravitz noted that he, Building/Zoning Official Joseph Raymond and Raymond Levesque, Planning Board Chairman, had developed examples of how the ordinance would work in Burrillville and referenced the proposed amendments (a copy is on file with the record of the minutes). Mr. Kravitz noted that sixty to seventy percent of the town is F5 (five acre minimum) and explained the impact of conservation development in areas zoned F5. Mr. Kravitz voiced concerns that conservation development might spark excessive development. Mr. Kravitz indicated that conservation development is theoretically sound and would work, but cautioned against the unintended consequences.

Thomas J. Kravitz, Town Planner and Economic Development Coordinator recommended that he be allowed to conduct further analysis, suggesting that an ordinance applied to more limited areas might offer a better approach. Raymond Levesque, Chairman of the Planning Board, discussed a possible overlay as an alternative. There was a discussion of the Village Planned Development ordinance, which is effective and which has similar objectives as conservation design.

There was discussion of other communities that have implemented conservation design. It was noted that other Rhode Island communities have not had the ordinance in place sufficiently long to

**demonstrate the results, that implementation varies from mandatory to voluntary in different communities, and the effect on tax revenues, the ownership of the open space in a conservation development. There was discussion of the types of areas in which conservation development best works. There was further discussion on the type of research that would be considered during additional analysis, which would provide the Town Council with sufficient information to make a decision.**

**VOTED to adjourn at 6:40 P.M.**

**Motion by Councilor Jacqueline Zahn. Seconded by Councilor Margaret L. Dudley. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor were Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley and Ronald E. Faford.**

**The workshop was taped. The tape is on file with the record of the meeting.**

**Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk**