

**NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP |
MINUTES....**

**WORKSHOP MEETING
January 27, 2025**

A workshop meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:00pm at the North Brunswick Township Council Room at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Council President Guadagnino called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Present: Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino

Absent: Ms. Hutchinson and Mayor Womack

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were sent by email on January 22, 2025 to the following:

- a) The Home News Tribune
- b) Star Ledger
- c) North Brunswick Sentinel

Notice receipts are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Also, notices were posted on the doors at the Municipal Complex and filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Also present: Township Attorney Ronald Gordon, Department of Public Works Representative Andrew Remm, Director of Parks Recreation and Community Services Lou Ann Benson, Chief Financial Officer Cavel Gallimore, Director of Community Development Michael Hritz, Chief of Police Joseph Battaglia, Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo and Clerk 3 Nellie Sowell.

Councilman Davis lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Workshop Agenda Items

Council President Guadagnino asked Ms. Gallimore to present her items for consideration....
Ms. Gallimore explains her 2 items...

1. Bill List
2. Confirming the appointment of Dianne Walker as Deputy Tax Assessor

Council President Guadagnino asked Ms. Benson to present her items for consideration for the February 3 , 2025 Council Meeting...

Ms. Benson explains her 4 items...

1. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall – Master Watch List – Volunteers 6a.m. – 8:30p.m. Saturday, May 24/Sunday, May 25/Monday, May 26 – 6a.m. – 11a.m. Please phone (732) 247-0922 extension 475 and ask for Director LouAnn Benson to sign up for volunteer stand watch, (Veteran's Park)

2. Invitation to Mayor, Council, Business Administrator and Directors to attend (grant funded) Municipal Alliance Conference Series for the 2025 Leadership/Mentorship Conference on Friday, February 7 (male session), February 14 (female session) and February 21, 9:30a.m. – 11:30a.m. at the North Brunswick Senior Center – Council President Guadagnino speaks about this wonderful program
3. Easter Seals of New Jersey
4. Authorizing an Application for funding from the NJ Transit Section 5310 Program to purchase a new bus for the Senior Center

Director Benson extends thanks to Councilman Davis and Mayor Womack on all their work and support for the Traveling Memorial Wall.

Council President Guadagnino asked Mr. Remm to present the items for consideration for the Department of Public Works for the February 3, 2025 Council Meeting...

Mr. Remm explains the 3 items...

1. Authorizing an Amendment to Contact PRO24065 with Takeform under the Department of Public Works – Discussion between Councilman Socio and Business Administrator Progebin regarding this item
2. Authorizing an Application for Funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program – Sabella Park Field House – Discussion between Councilman Socio, Council President Guadagnino and Business Administrator Progebin regarding this item
3. Authorizing an application for funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program – Sabella Park Inclusive Playground

Council President Guadagnino asked Ms. Progebin to present Mayor Womack's items for consideration for the February 3, 2025 Council Meeting...

Ms. Progebin explains Mayor Womack's 3 items...

1. Appointing Individual(s) and Term(s) of Committee Members to the Recreation Advisory Committee
2. Appointing Individual(s) and Term(s) of Committee Members to the Open Space Committee
3. Awarding a Non-Fair and Open Professional Services Contract with Ari L. Lockspeiser to serve a Municipal Prosecutor – Discussion between Councilman Socio, Business Administrator Progebin and Township Attorney regarding this item

Council President Guadagnino asked Ms. Progebin to present her items for consideration for the February 3, 2025 Council Meeting...

Ms. Progebin explains her 2 items...

1. Authorizing a Professional Service Agreement with James R. Shamy, Esq. to serve as Public Defender
2. Accepting and Adopting the Central Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund's 2025 Safety Incentive Program

Council President Guadagnino asked Ms. Russo to present her items for consideration for the February 3, 2025 Council Meeting...

Ms. Russo explains her 5 items...

1. Bingo Application BA2412/ PTSO North Brunswick Township High School/ Pocket Book Bingo/ March 21, 2025 at NBTHS
2. Raffle Application RA2501/ Knights of Columbus Council 11378 / 50/50 Raffle/ June 15, 2025 at Our Lady of Peace
3. Approval of Minutes/ 01.13.25
4. Approval of Minutes/ 01.21.25
5. #25-01 – Second Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance of the Township of North Brunswick amending the Code of the Township of North Brunswick Chapter 3, Article II, Section 9 entitled Administration of Government to update Meeting Schedule for the Township Council Meetings

Council President Guadagnino called for a motion to open Public Hearing at 7:17pm, for the Green Acres Proposals for Sabella Park. So moved by Councilman Chedid, second by Councilman Socio

Roll call:

Yays: Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ms. Hutchinson and Mayor Womack

Joseph Ditore (former North Brunswick Resident/ current member of the Adams AC) speaks about the area in consideration for the Sabella Park snack shack. He mentions he thinks the placement should be behind the first football field. He states the area is better and will be easier for deliveries. He also states it would be better to replace the sewer line prior to work. Discussion continues between Councilman Socio, Business Administrator Progebin and Councilman Chedid.

Councilwoman Hutchinson arrives at 7:21pm

John Calandrussio - speaks that he is in support of the snack shack. He asks if some of the equipment can be moved and reused in new snack shack? Mr. Remm responds. Mr. Calandrussio proposes maybe a field house can be provided as well for storage of equipment.

Discussion between Council President Guadagnino and Business Administrator Progebin in regards to this.

Kristal Calkins (North Brunswick Resident/Parent) states she is excited for the new playground. She also inquired about adding a Native Rain Garden. Councilman Chedid asked for clarification. Ms. Calkins clarified. She also explains what the benefits would be to having this garden. It would be a beautiful place to look at. Ms. Calkins provided a list of professional contacts for the Native Plant Garden (attached) Discussion continues between Ms. Calkins, Council President Guadagnino, Director Hritz and Councilman Davis.

PBA 160 President Officer Fedor Salvador gives thanks to be given the opportunity to speak regarding this. He states the PBA is in support of this project. He reads a letter to the Mayor, Council and Business Administrator (letter attached)

Council President Guadagnino called of a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Green Acres Proposals for Sabella Park. So moved by Councilwoman Hutchinson, second by Councilman Socio

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Hutchinson, Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mayor Womack

Council President Guadagnino called for a motion to approved *item a.* on the consent agenda. So moved by Councilman Socio seconded by Councilman Davis

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Hutchinson, Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mayor Womack

Consent Agenda

a. 68-1.25 Bill List

Reports from Mayor, Council, Administrator, CFO

Councilman Socio announces the Blood Drive (flyer attached)

Councilman Socio announces the North Brunswick Township High School Girls title win. Many congrats to the girls wrestling team!!

Council President Guadagnino opens Public Hearing

Gene Goundrey (North Brunswick Township Resident) asks about Chapter 287 Snow/ Ice Removal. Mr. Goundrey stated he went around to various areas and has multiple locations that still have not removed the snow/ice from their sidewalks. He asks why nothing is being done in regards to this. He states he fears for the safety of the residents walking on the sidewalks. Director Hritz responds. A list from Mr. Goundrey was provided to the Municipal Clerk to forward to Director Hritz. Discussion continues between Council President Guadagnino and Councilman Socio.

Councilman Chedid asks Director Hritz about the snow removal – discussion continues between Councilman Chedid, Council President Guadagnino and Director Hritz.

Tony Nastus (North Brunswick resident) follows up on the previous residents concerns about the snow removal from the streets. Mr. Nastus states there are still a lot of cars parked on the streets when it snows, he states the cars are not being moved. Chief Battaglia responds. Discussion continues between Chief Battaglia, Director Hritz, Council President Guadagnino and Councilman Socio.

Mr. Nastus speaks of numerous concerns he has regarding different addresses through out the Township and questions code enforcement. Discussion continues between Mr. Nastus and Director Hritz.

Tom Salva (North Brunswick Resident) speaks of a meeting “Leaders for Life” he attended at the Senior Center that was very informative. He wanted to extend his thanks for the Township offering such a great opportunity to have people come and speak to educate the senior community about things to look out for. Mr. Salva also states he thinks the Sabella Park improvements are a wonderful idea.

Council President Guadagnino called for a motion to close Public Hearing, so moved by Councilman Chedid second by Councilman Socio

Roll call:

Yays:	Ms. Hutchinson, Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Mayor Womack

Council President Guadagnino called for a motion to adjourn the meeting so moved by Councilman Socio, second by Councilman Davis.

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Hutchinson, Messrs. Chedid, Mehta, Davis, Socio and Ms. Guadagnino
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mayor Womack

Adjourn 8:03 pm
Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk

Sabella Park Playground and Building Improvements Jan 2025

Hello, my name is Kristal Calkins and I am a North Brunswick resident with an elementary aged child and a toddler. We have used Sabella Park a lot in the past for playground play and my son's soccer practices when the town held practices there in the past.

I'd like to ask the township to consider planting a native plants rain garden at the site of the existing current building which has sustained significant damage from flooding issues. A rain garden can absorb runoff during a storm, save money in the long run in stormwater management and even enhance the resiliency of the new building. Native plants in particular have a deeper root system and would be able to absorb more water. The rain garden can also create more natural beauty and attract even more people to utilize the park.

My proposal is, firstly, that the township contact the Master Gardeners of Middlesex County, who are trained by Rutgers University, in particular Environmental Agent, Michele Bakacs who is a rain garden expert. She could make an assessment about where best to plant and best practices associated with installing a native plants rain garden. She would be better able to assist and answer any questions.

Second, the Master Gardeners has a have a native plant nursery where they grow plants for projects such as these. I propose that the township fill out the Native Plant Donation Application.

Lastly, I propose that the township contact the Master Gardner Program Coordinator Angela Monaghan. The Master Gardeners need to complete around 60 hours of volunteer garden work and this may be a project they would be able to partner with in the installation and maintenance of the garden.

Sabella Park is one of several locations in North Brunswick Township that could greatly benefit from a rain garden with regards to flooding issues, including the municipal building as well. If one is built here, it could serve as a model rain garden for other sites.

Thank you so much for your time.

Kristal Calkins

Sabella Park Playground and Building Improvements Jan 2025

Master Gardeners of Middlesex County
Environmental Agent
Michele Bakacs
bakacs@njaes.rutgers.edu

Native Plant Donation Application-
https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_ebclwUHfv5WsQMS

Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Angela Monaghan
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County
Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
42 Riva Ave.
North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4734
Phone: 732-398-5278
Email: angela.monaghan@co.middlesex.nj.us

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County Master Gardeners (for
general agricultural questions)
Phone Number: 732-398-5220
E-mail address: mastergardeners@co.middlesex.nj.us



NORTH BRUNSWICK PBA LOCAL #160

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Fedor Salvador-Romero

Vice President- William Bonura Jr.

Delegate - John Hanrahan

Treasurer- Sean McCorry

Recording Secretary- Greg Ternlund

Financial Secretary- Matthew Workman

Sgt. At Arms- Sean Gaither

January 27, 2025

Mayor & Township Council
Business Administrator, Justine Progebin
North Brunswick Township
710 Hermann Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Dear Mayor Womack, Council Members, and Business Administrator Progebin,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the North Brunswick PBA Local 160, I respectfully request your support for the proposed upgrades to the playground and concessions building at Sabella Park. These improvements will enhance community engagement and support our law enforcement's outreach and juvenile programs.

As a non-profit, our programs rely on volunteers and donations. These initiatives, including youth mentorship, domestic violence education, and recreation, are essential to building positive community relationships. However, our efforts are limited by a lack of adequate space and resources.

The additions to the park facilities would be a tremendous asset which would provide us with a dedicated space to host these programs. Some of the programs we feel would benefit and thrive from these upgrades are the following:

- **The Power Program** – a youth development initiative focused on empowering young people through mentorship and education working hand in hand with our dedicated North Brunswick Township educators.
- **One-on-One Mentorships** – building lasting relationships between officers and local youth to foster trust and guide positive life choices.
- **Domestic Violence Collaborations** – workshops aimed at educating the community about resources available to victims and strategies to prevent violence.
- **Proposed Police Athletic League (PAL)** – a home base for engaging youth in athletic and recreational activities, promoting teamwork, conflict resolution, and healthy lifestyle.

These programs rely on volunteers and the need for proper space to make an impact. The upgraded concessions building would host workshops, mentoring, and after-school programs, while the playground improvements would provide a safe space for children. The proposed upgrades will enhance the park and strengthen our community relationships. Access to a public facility will also ease the burden on volunteers and expand outreach efforts.

We are committed to assisting with any applications, grants, and fundraising efforts to help with costs to see this project through. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this project further and explore how we can collaborate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Patrolman Fedor Salvador-Romero

North Brunswick PBA Local 160, President

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION,
AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life.



The Blood Drive will be held on the first floor of The Municipal Building.

710 Herman Road, North Brunswick New Jersey 08902

- You must be at least 17 years old to donate to the general blood supply, or 16 years old with parental/guardian consent
- Regular Blood Donations may be given every 56 days (If you come to donate and it has only been 55 days you will not be able to donate that day)
- Power Red Donations may be given every 112 days (If you come to donate and it has only been 111 days you will not be able to donate that day) Done by using an automated process to separate red cells from other blood components. For any questions on Power Red Donations please visit the American Red Cross website:
www.redcrossblood.org