

TIVERTON PLANNING BOARD
343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND 02878
(401) 625-6718



August 26, 2008

To: Louise Durfee, Town Council President

From: Rosemary Eva, Vice Chairman *R. Eva*

Re: Cynthia Nebergall's Reappointment to the Tiverton Planning Board

As you are aware I was present at Monday night's Town Council Meeting and was completely stunned by the Town Council's vote not to reappoint Cynthia Nebergall to the Planning Board without a reason and in particular with the lack of volunteers for the current vacancies. My reaction at that time was to be silent and not question the matter, since our Chairman Noel Berg was not in attendance and I was unaware of any conversations that might have occurred between the Town Administrator, Town Council members, Mr. Berg or you.

However, since receiving Mr. Berg's disappointing letter of resignation I have learned that no conversations took place. Ms. Nebergall's performance, knowledge of regulations, the law, meeting preparation, willingness to serve as the Board's liaison to two other commissions and attendance at Planning Board meetings has been exemplary. If the reason for her not being reappointed was for statements made at May's Town Financial Meeting, I believe she should not be taken to task over them – that was a time for her to express her constitutional right to speak as a resident and taxpayer of the Town and should not be used against her in reappointment to the Planning Board. The two should remain separate and distinct.

The Planning Board has always been an independent Board. In all the years that I have had the pleasure to serve with such a professional and dedicated group of volunteers, at times under some very stressful conditions, never have I seen a Planning Board member not be reappointed without due process or at least a discussion between the member and the Planning Board Chairman or Town Administrator if there was a problem. That independence is now questionable to me.

As a matter of principal and with regret, I ask you to please accept my resignation from the Planning Board, Redevelopment Agency and Street Committee effective immediately.

cc: Town Council, Town Clerk, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Town Solicitor,
Planning Board Solicitor, Planning Board, N. Berg, C. Nebergall, File