



Re: Is there a meeting tonight?

From Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com>
Date Mon 6/2/2025 5:04 PM
To Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com>
Cc davarnerin@comcast.net <davarnerin@comcast.net>; NJ21st Team <team@nj21st.com>

All I'm trying to point out, which Deb seems to have an understanding of at this point, but I don't think you do, is that had anyone from the township actually cared about residents coming and learning about the options for the turf field someone - anyone - would've taken five seconds to make a post on Facebook to alert the community to this meeting.

I would ask you and anyone who thinks this special meeting notice was handled properly to recount the endless emails, press releases, messages on community forums, social media posts, the township message board AND your own physical attendance at board of Ed meetings, begging residence to come out to support your lease agreement with the District.

And now that actual information is being disseminated, but not one person in the Township had the time, now that you've gotten what you want, to include and notify the community speaks volumes.

Honestly a simple 'yeah we messed - up next time we can and will do better' would've sufficed and we could've saved a hell of a lot of time this afternoon with emails.

Thanks,
LK

On Jun 2, 2025, at 4:25 PM, Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com> wrote:

Laura, feel free to call me directly if you want to discuss further. But the actual, truthful explanation is below, and there most certainly is no OPMA violation, nor any activity going on to "hide" any information from residents. And when you're talking about what is legally required and what is not in regards to public notices and OPMA, it IS very important to make the distinction if something is required or not.

- The notice of the meeting was sent to the papers on May 28; the public notice says no action will be taken
- The agenda was posted May 28 in our AGENDA section of our website (screenshot below)
- The person in our office who posted the agenda just didn't add the agenda to the CALENDAR section of our website. I said earlier in this thread to you that it wasn't put on the actual calendar until today (as seen below); it is not required to be on the CALENDAR section but we do it as a courtesy and to make things easier to find for our residents. It is not a legal requirement.

Also, I have the email sent to you from our Deputy Clerk – she merely confirmed that the meeting was in Council Chambers at 6:30 and said she thought it was on the Township website on the Rec page (agenda page).

The bottom line is, human beings sometimes make mistakes. And if a mistake was made by someone here that resulted in the meeting not being added to the website in the *multiple* places we try to post notices for added convenience to our residents, they will try harder next time.

Thanks and have a great day.

<image002.jpg>

Liza Viana
Berkeley Heights Township Administrator
908-464-2700, ext 2232
lviana@bhtwp.com

From: Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com>
Date: Monday, June 2, 2025 at 3:38 PM
To: Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com>
Cc: davarnerin@comcast.net <davarnerin@comcast.net>, team@nj21st.com <team@nj21st.com>
Subject: Re: Is there a meeting tonight?

Just curious if the Township expects residents to search through “Agendas” for all the committees to learn about Special Pubic Meetings as most, if not all, committee meetings are NOT public?

I think we can agree with all the PR and social media the Township engages in, this meeting could and should have been announced adequately, especially if the Town sincerely wanted to engage and work with the community. Instead, this information was (maybe) hidden in places the majority of residents do not spend searching through.

While there may have been a malfunction at the exact time I wrote to you today, I can assure you this meeting has not shown up on the Township calendar on the website for at least 10 days - I have been consistently checking. Or maybe it has malfunctioned each time I checked....

Thank you for the information, this communication has been enlightening, to say the least.

-Laura

> On Jun 2, 2025, at 3:14 PM, Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com> wrote:

>

> The agenda has been there since last week. For some reason it's wasn't showing up on the calendar on the front page of our website; Barbara in our office looked into the calendar malfunction today and added it again, which triggered the alert. The agenda has been there. News alerts are not required to go out for any agendas.

> Liza Viana

> Berkeley Heights Township Administrator

> 908-464-2700, ext 2232
> lviana@bhtwp.com
> From: Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com>
> Date: Monday, June 2, 2025 at 3:02 PM
> To: davarnerin@comcast.net <davarnerin@comcast.net>
> Cc: Liza Viana <lviana@bhtwp.com>, team@nj21st.com <team@nj21st.com>
> Subject: Re: Is there a meeting tonight?<image001.jpg>
>
> On Jun 2, 2025, at 2:50 PM, Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@comcast.net> wrote:
> What alert? Rec doesn't send alerts?
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>
> On Jun 2, 2025, at 2:42 PM, Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com> wrote:
> So I see the alert rec sent at 1:44pm today, was this posted anywhere else before I started asking?
> On Jun 2, 2025, at 2:10 PM, Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com> wrote:
> Thanks! Can you also point me to where the notice for this meeting is posted? I had a hard time finding anything.
> Thanks Deb!
> -LK
>
>
> On Jun 2, 2025, at 1:50 PM, Debra Varnerin <davarnerin@comcast.net> wrote:
> The Rec Commission is having a special meeting to see the turf options provided by a vendor.
> The meeting is at 6:30 in the council chambers.
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>
> On Jun 2, 2025, at 1:45 PM, Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com> wrote:
> Good afternoon - I got the auto reply that Angela is out of office, thought maybe one of you could help?
> Thanks - LK
>
>
> Begin forwarded message:
> From: Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@icloud.com>
> Subject: Is there a meeting tonight?
> Date: June 2, 2025 at 12:42:40 PM EDT
> To: alazzari@bhtwp.com
> Good afternoon, Ms. Lazzari!
>
> A friend mentioned the Township is holding a special meeting tonight regarding the proposed turf field.
>
> After an extensive search on the Township Website, the Township FB page and the Township Calendar page I could not find a single detail about this special meeting. I only see the Environmental Commission meeting listed.
>
> Could you please confirm this meeting and direct me to where the meeting notice is posted?
>
> Thank you,
> Laura Kapuscinski