

CITIZENS ADVOCACY GROUP, MANALAPAN STRONG, MOVES FORWARD ON ALL FRONTS

Candidate In Opposition to Manalapan Crossing Wins Local Election in Manalapan

November 4, 2015 (Manalapan, NJ) - The growing grassroots campaign of **Manalapan Strong** has made its voice heard. The group, composed of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, endorsed and actively campaigned for candidate David Kane for Township Committee, the only candidate who declared his opposition to the Manalapan Crossing development project. Mr. Kane scored a decisive upset victory in the November 3rd election. In addition, Manalapan Strong has retained an attorney to represent the large number of citizens who are opposed to the Township Committee's ordinance that changes Manalapan's Master Plan and paves the way for the development of Manalapan Crossing. He has sent the Township Committee a formal letter stressing resident concerns that the Manalapan Crossing project threatens to change the character of Manalapan forever. The letter also requests the Township Committee delay the passage of this ordinance until such time that independent due diligence and studies can be conducted to assess the impacts of this development on Manalapan. It cites specific resident concerns with the proposal including its intensity/density and large size and recommends that the Township Committee avoid pushing through this ordinance in such an abrupt and haphazard fashion, because doing so may subject the Township Committee to potential litigation.

On November 3, David Kane, the Democratic candidate running for the Manalapan Township Committee, defeated the Republican candidate Rebecca Ginsberg. The vote as reported by media outlets was 2,560 votes for Kane and 1,928 votes for Ginsberg, with all districts reporting. The four Manalapan Township Republican governing body members (Mayor McNaboe, Jordan Maskowitz, Mary Ann Musich, Susan Cohen) have been pushing the Manalapan Crossing proposal by introducing an ordinance for an overlay zone, and they have scheduled the ordinance for a vote next Tuesday, November 10th, at 8 pm at Town Hall. The only Republican member who opposes Manalapan Crossing and voted "no" on the introduction of the ordinance was Ryan Green. The Republican party structure decided to oppose Green in the June primary election with Mrs. Ginsberg, who won that primary and ran for Township Committee. Mrs. Ginsberg lost to David Kane in the November 3 general election. Mr. Kane had publicly declared his opposition to the proposed ordinance and the Manalapan Crossing project. Manalapan Strong urges all fellow citizens to join it in solidarity at the November 10 meeting at Town Hall at 8PM to halt this unnecessary and over-scaled proposed development.

The development being proposed would authorize up to 720 apartments in four story structures, a public entertainment center, a hotel, black-paved commuter parking lots, and up to 500,000 square feet of commercial development at the old Probasco Farm on Route 33 and Millhurst Road. Manalapan Strong contends that this will only worsen the already existing traffic congestion in that area and increase the demand for local government services, straining the existing local government infrastructure for public services related to public safety, police, fire, and education services.

Manalapan Strong has issued the following statement:

"We have a grassroots campaign that is growing. We have members who are working together to educate our fellow citizens in Manalapan and have canvassed various neighborhoods and housing developments. Our efforts are only going to grow stronger as time progresses. We are encouraged by the outpouring of phone calls, messages, posts on the Internet, fundraising, and offers of volunteerism to further get the facts out about this proposed development that threatens to change the landscape of Manalapan forever. We will not sit idly by while our local elected officials wreak havoc on the beautiful character of Manalapan. The proposed development will likely generate greater local government expenditures that will be borne by our local residents. Our strategies continue to develop, and new initiatives are being implemented to halt this proposal and return Manalapan to rational land use policies that also bring with it sustainability and smart economic growth. The November 3rd election results are the first signs of the strength of Manalapan Strong and its multi-faceted efforts to date."

About Manalapan Strong:

This grassroots advocacy group's mission includes: A) Educating the public about the proposed Manalapan Crossing; B) Advocating to halt this development project; C) Encouraging fellow citizens to assist so that local elected officials respond and follow the will of the people on this issue; D) Ensuring that any proposed development is rational and promotes green space, a good life quality, full transparency; E) Preserving the rural character of southern Manalapan, the gateway to Manalapan Township; F) Documenting nationwide studies that show that over-development (commercial and residential) lowers the value of nearby properties and drives up taxes.

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