

The Citizen of Morris County

Montville continues to fight power line upgrade

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By MEGAN CROUSE EDITOR

MONTVILLE TWP. - In what Mayor Don Kostka called an “unanticipated update,” Township Committee members expressed their disapproval of Jersey Central Power & Light’s procedures for familiarizing the township with the projected Montville-Whippany Reinforcement Project at the committee meeting on Tuesday, June 23.

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No Smoking Policy

In other news, April Dudzinski, a Montville resident and intern with the tobacco control group New Jersey Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy, gave a presentation supporting a 100 percent smoke-free policy in Montville’s municipal parks.

Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy focuses on the harm of exposing children to secondhand smoke and smoking culture, she said. “I understand the importance of living smoke free, and would like my home town to adopt such a positive policy,” she said.

She said that 90 percent of smokers start the habit before the age of 21. Nielson took note of this statistic and said, “I’m 200 percent in favor (of a smoke-free policy.)”

“Having young people that smoke and acquire this habit is not something that I am in support of,” she said.

Kostka noted that the committee had discussed eliminating smoking at playgrounds in years past. “There would be no reason to have smoking at playgrounds with kids,” he said.

Committeeman James Sandham looked at it from a different perspective. “Something that I think about with things like this is the protection of the rights of the minority,” he said.

Although he said he does not support smoking, he said, a complete ban would fail to protect the people who do smoke.

Committeeman Richard Conklin agreed, saying “I’m not trying to support smoking, but there’s some common sense (issues.)”

“I’m not entirely for a 100 percent ban on something,” he said.

“As far as just being in the park or walking on the trails, of course, there are fire issues, but we have a lot of blue collar guys who play horseshoes or other games on the fields and they like to smoke while they’re doing it,” Conklin said.

Gallop noted that any policy regarding smoke-free parks should have a space to accommodate people who do smoke. He also compared it to an oft-broken no dogs ordinance in a township park.

“Are we creating another ordinance that isn’t going to be enforced?”

Kostka suggested that the public should have a chance to weigh in on whether the town should put a smoke-free park policy in place.

http://newjerseyhills.com/the_citizen/news/montville-continues-to-fight-power-line-upgrade/article_c7152498-06de-11e4-9278-0019bb2963f4.html