

5:30pm CBS Channel 6 – Parked Outside Town Hall – Right Now – Since 3:25pm

Monday, Dec. 3, a true exercise in civic engagement. From last months “Cup of Joe to Go” our president Joe Casey, stated “Nobody has on their bucket list to take vacation time from their work to visit their government”. Yet on Tuesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> when a modular home with an approved zoning permit was placed on a transitional lot zoned R-12 , mixed use abutting a R-1, limited residential neighborhood on the highest traffic count corridor in Warsaw, the bucket list of a former mayor, retired state trooper and several town residents of over forty years suddenly had a visit to town hall on their bucket list.

What a Thanksgiving Homecoming for town manager, Joseph Quesenberry. He astutely called for an informal information session for 4p.m. on the day of his return. Expecting a few neighbors to show up, the Council Chambers were filled with disgruntled, perhaps well intended folk. The purpose of the quickly scheduled session was to outline the permitting process, review zoning classifications and engage the apparent disgruntled residents in awareness of the distinction between modular and manufactured (mobile) homes as designated by the State Building code.

The meeting allowed for disagreement and open exchange. The county building inspector and the town’s planning commission chairman attended the session and added clarity to the decisions that had been made. However, the axiom, “if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck” was muttered upon the end of the session. As well, the adjacent property owner challenged the actual rear yard set-back measurements against the surveyor documentation. Therefore, an agreement was made to convene on-site 9 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 29.

New circumstance, the measurements were incorrect. The new modular home is now out of compliance with the zoning codes and documentation submitted to the building inspector. The new resident still not identified, had no defensible reason for seeking a variance. Now she identifies herself. A US Marine Corps disable veteran, Afro-American, single parent with three children. An apparent impasse exist with her neighbors, her contractor, the town zoning code

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A former town councilman with a Class A contractor's license volunteered to mediate between and among the property owner, modular home company, the town, the neighbors and the adjacent property owner. What emerged from Thursday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> mid-morning to Friday afternoon was an execution of immense civic neighborhood engagement equally another excerpt from "Cup of Joe to Go" as he quoted Margaret Wheatley, "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about"...or looks like.

The working togetherness is still in strong pursuit; however, why is the Channel 6 News caravan still parked across the street from town hall. Final engagement (success) to be reported...later.