

# Municipal Planning

Hunterdon County Democrat (Flemington, NJ) - Thursday, April 30, 2009

To The Editor:

Having spent more than 15 years on the Clinton Township Planning Board, 12 as its chair, I can speak with authority and experience about land use matters and planning in our community.

Consequently, I was surprised and disappointed at the tepid reception by certain members of the township council last Wednesday to the preliminary proposal to build our COAH housing on the north parcel of the Windy Acres site. I would have expected an enthusiastic endorsement. Certain members still defend the current COAH plan to build 85 housing units on land we do not yet own and will need to condemn, directly across the street from Immaculate Conception on Old Allerton Road.

This would be in addition to the current COAH plan to build 15 rental units at Annandale Old Town Hall where I'd prefer from a planning perspective, and have long advocated, a park be developed for residents.

Now that we own Windy Acres (at a cost of \$7 million), it would be fiscally irresponsible to support the current COAH plan and not work immediately to amend it so the township can build its remaining second and third round units at Windy Acres.

Moreover, we've already burdened Annandale with substantial high density housing at The Mews in the name of COAH. To force additional housing in Annandale when we have a more attractive alternative is bad planning; it will increase traffic and congestion, increase the risk of auto accidents, endanger the public health and welfare and degrade the environment and quality of life for residents of Annandale and congregants of the Immaculate Conception Church and its school.

This is municipal spending and planning at its worst. I'm running for council to insure the balance of our COAH obligations for the foreseeable future is developed at Windy Acres.

On June 2, support the team of Imbriaco, Marra and Peck. Visit us at [www.YourCouncilTeam.com](http://www.YourCouncilTeam.com).

JAMES IMBRIACO

Candidate

Clinton Township Council