

Shields Elementary

Lighting

I understand that the Historical preservation committee has not reviewed the Shields Elementary plan because the school is outside the historic district. The school is right on the line, I believe. The Savannah road historical district line is drawn at the 800-block putting the school about two houses outside the line. There has been discussion about preserving the look of the Lewes School. The old 50s era additions will be demolished (?). The new construction to meld in with the historic façade. Can the town/school system include the existing lighting in the preservation of the look and feel? The existing lighting consists of antique or vintage turn-of-the-century lights on cast cement poles. Replacing these with rectangular aluminum light poles and square light boxes will not preserve the ambiance of the old school.

Stormwater Retention Ponds

Regarding the stormwater retention ponds, the school system responded that they do not feel the need to take insect abatement measures. The plat shows two (?) stormwater retention ponds on the renovated property. As I bicycle around the Lewes-Rehoboth-Georgetown area, I see water retention ponds in every community built in the last several years. It would appear that there is a state or county requirement for stormwater management (?). All of the ponds I see have either sprinklers or bubblers. I assume this is to provide insect abatement as opposed to aesthetics (?). Looking at the plat for the new Shields Elementary one of the ponds appears to be across the street from Savannah Road homes. A second pond appears to be adjacent to the trail which leads to Smith park (behind Beebe hospital.). The trail is used by the bulk of people attending the farmers' market in the park. What are the criteria which would require the school system to revisit their decision? Do recent Delaware outbreaks of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Zika virus suggest reconsideration? From the DNREC web page ; "There are several mosquito-borne diseases that currently pose concern in Delaware: Chikungunya, West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and Canine Heartworm Disease, and a possible newcomer, Zika, for which the state's awareness is growing.". <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito/Pages/MC-Diseases.aspx>

Or is the burden placed on the town of Lewes to provide insect abatement?



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