

APPROVED AS AMENDED: November 1, 2016

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

September 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: President Geevers called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on January 8, 2016.

ATTENDEES: President: Geevers; Vice President: Marathe; Council: Hamilton, Mendonez, Miller; Mayor: Hsueh; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert; Township Clerk: Young; Township Engineer: Guzik; Police Lieutenant: Garofalo; Manager of Emergency Services: Yates

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ted Stremppack, 16 Kensington Court, advised he is in favor of the road diet because four lanes next to a residential area is not a good safety measure.

Ms. Cheryl Kastrenakes, 15 Roszel Road, supports the concept of a road diet.

Mr. Lee Eric Newton, 558 Alexander Road, advised that the Township needs a new perspective regarding the Township's road ways because there are a lot more pedestrians on the roads. He suggests that the Township not proceed with the road diet until the area is built out.

Mr. Dan Fabrizio, 8 Exeter Court, advised that most of the residents signed a petition to keep Canal Pointe Boulevard four lanes. He noted that many residents offered safety suggestions.

Ms. Givlia Pethica, 1 Exeter Court, commented on being against the road diet and outlined her reasons.

Mr. James Kopley, 580 Alexander Road, noted that he is unable to make a left turn onto Alexander Road because of all the traffic. He listed reasons he is opposed to the road diet.

Mr. Paul Luksa, 6 Trumbull Court, commented on being in favor of the road diet for the safety implications.

Mr. Paul Pitluk, 69 Rainflower Lane, spoke about the safety precautions taken on New Village Road. He urged Council to adopt the Canal Pointe Boulevard road diet which is similar to New Village Road.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, advised that Council should listen to residents most affected by the traffic in that area.

Ms. Veronica Mehno, 41 Galston Drive, suggested that the Council listen to what the residents of Canal Pointe Boulevard are saying. She noted that she is against the road diet.

Mr. Peter Johnson, Vice President of NRG Energy, advised that safety is number one for NRG Energy. He noted that the company promotes safety, and he spoke of the "bike share program" they have initiated.

Ms. Kristin Appelget, Director of Community Relations at Princeton University, noted that the University has a "bike share program," on campus and more than 12,000 rides have been logged on these bikes since March. She advised that it is a change in culture to ride a bike, walk or take a bus to get to your destination. Ms. Appelget noted that Princeton Theological Seminary is also interested in the "bike share program" but are concerned with the lack of infrastructure.

Mr. Donald Varner, 13 Amherst Way, spoke about the safety benefit the road diet will offer.

Canal Pointe Boulevard Project

Mr. Guzik spoke about the following regarding the project:

- Advised of a website which is informative about the benefits of a road diet
- Outlined the conditions of the entire project corridor
- Spoke of the conditions from Emmons Drive to Meadow Road and Meadow Road to Alexander Road
- Commented on the West Windsor Township's approved Master Plan, Section K - Circulation Element and the goals
- Outlined the various bikeways and the multi-use trails developed over the past fifteen years
- Orth-Rodgers Associates drafted the report in June of 2014 and the Burns Group (which purchased Orth-Rodgers Associates) followed up with the resent report and presentation
- Public Presentations by Burns Group was given on April 21, 2015 and the presentation was uploaded onto the Township website with a public comment period that ended May 8, 2015. The analysis of the public comments was issued May 19, 2015
- Reviewed Meadow Road and Alexander Road recommendations and spoke about the public comment analysis findings
- Provided Canal Pointe Boulevard statistics and advised of the reduction of traffic levels if the road diet was to be implemented
- Highlighted the Mayor, Administration, and Council's efforts for the high priority reconstruction of Canal Pointe Boulevard. The Mayor issued his support of the road diet implementation
- Project meetings were held with both the Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Emergency Management Representatives. Reviewed their comments and requests
- Spoke about the pedestrian activated warning systems to be installed at four locations
- Outlined the existing and proposed bus stops and bump-outs required
- Reviewed in detail the plans for Canal Pointe Boulevard
- Outlined the next steps for the project

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Mendonez inquired about a timeline for the project.

Mr. Guzik advised that the project should go out to bid in early October and once the bids have been reviewed the contract will be on the next Council Meeting agenda. He explained the project details that would be accomplished this year and for spring of 2017.

Ms. Hamilton asked several questions about the bump-outs for the buses.

Mr. Guzik addressed her questions.

Ms. Miller asked for the diameters of the bump-outs, and noted her concern about bicyclists being able to get around the buses.

Mr. Guzik supplied the specific details and addressed her questions.

Lieutenant Garofalo advised that he studied road diets that were implemented throughout the country, and spoke about the data in benefit of a road diet such as: 20-50% reduction of auto accidents, traffic speed reduced and became more uniform, and promoted pedestrian activity in the area.

Mr. Marathe inquired about getting accident data for both Canal Pointe Boulevard and New Village Road.

Lieutenant Garofalo noted that New Village Road is very different from Canal Pointe Boulevard because of the Boulevard's location close to Route One. He noted that New Village Road is mostly residential.

Ms. Miller advised that there are no comparisons between the two roads. She explained that Administration is going into new territory with the reconstruction of Canal Pointe Boulevard and the utilization of the road diet. She inquired about a section of Meadow Road being included in the project.

Mr. Guzik noted that section of Meadow Road is not part of the bid for reconstruction. He explained that sometimes there are extra funds and quantities built into the project and if they are not needed it could then be utilized for Meadow Road.

President Geevers asked if the Township would get more competitive bids with the current lack of funds in the State's Transportation Trust Fund.

Mr. Guzik acknowledged that the Trust Funds only affect certain projects.

President Geevers addressed questions regarding the bus stops along Canal Pointe Boulevard and making sure the School Board is kept informed.

Ms. Hamilton inquired if the paving could be done earlier.

Mr. Guzik noted there are outlined steps in the process.

Ms. Miller suggested that President Geevers and Mr. Marathe speak with the School Board to discuss safety issues.

President Geevers inquired about additional projects which will be built along Canal Pointe Boulevard and the need for additional traffic studies as the projects are developed. She asked if the funding set aside is sufficient for the project.

Mr. Guzik noted he does not anticipate a problem with the amount of funding provided for the project.

Mr. Yates advised that the practical approach is the one for safety for pedestrians.

Mr. Mendonez explained that this was a new presentation that presented different facts and was not repetitive. He suggested that the roads get paved before winter and revisit the design in spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, noted that he was not aware of any fatalities on Canal Pointe Boulevard. He advised that this road has its own set of generalities.

Ms. Veronica Mehno, 41 Galston Drive, reviewed the petition statistics from the residents, and made additional comments.

Ms. Debra Dodson, 22 Stonebridge Lane, is thrilled that the Township is moving forward with the road diet.

Mr. James Kopley, 580 Alexander Road, acknowledged the Department of Public Works for the great job they did in patching the road and keeping them safe. He offered suggestions if the Township plans on moving forward with the road diet.

Mr. Ted Strempack, 16 Kensington Court, noted that he was impressed with how the meetings have been handled.

Mr. Paul Luksa, 6 Trumbull Court, thanked everyone for their time spent listening to the residents' concerns. He offered additional comments.

Mr. Michael Zeilberger, 2 Bayberry Drive, questioned the validity of the petition distributed to the residents. Most of the neighbors he knows are in favor of the road diet.

Mr. Andrew Kulley, 6 Jill Drive, supports the construction of the road diet plan.

Mr. Michael Tas, 17 Millbrook Road, noted that safety is a real issue, and he thanked everyone for supporting the road diet.

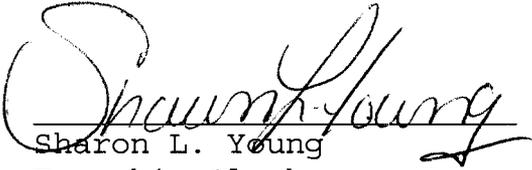
Mr. Jerry Foster, 15 Suffolk Lane, spoke about the safety for bicyclists. He noted that road diets work and they prevent accidents.

Mr. Steven Zen, 14 Berkshire Drive, spoke in favor of the road diet.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Miller
Second: Mendonez
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.



Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township

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