

APPROVED AS AMENDED: December 9, 2013

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Work Session
October 10, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: President Borek called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 October 8, 2013.

ATTENDEES: President: Borek; Vice President: Samonte; Council Members: Geevers, Khanna, Maher; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert Jr.; Township Engineer: Guzik (left at 8:41 p.m.); Director of Community Development: Ward (left at 8:41 p.m.); Township Clerk: Young

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Young led the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, spoke against cancelling the October 15th, 2013 Business Session.

Mr. Jerry Foster, 15 Suffolk Lane, Chair of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, provided his recommendations for the Cranbury Road RFP.

Ms. Sarah Thomson, 113 Cranbury Road, thanked Council for holding the meeting to discuss the Cranbury Road RFP so that the project can move forward.

Ms. Virginia Manzari, 28 Berkshire Drive, spoke about costs and options for the Cranbury Road RFP.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Geevers noted that she was pleased that the meeting is taking place for the discussion of the RFP.

President Borek explained that residents of Cranbury Road brought forward the issues with the sidewalks and safety to the forefront. He noted that this is a positive effort to move the project along. President Borek spoke about the timeline for the project and the engineering challenges to the Cranbury Road project.

PRESENTATION

RFP: Cranbury Road Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Alternatives Study

Mr. Guzik and Ms. Ward reviewed the RFP and the options for improving Cranbury Road.

Mr. Guzik explained that the goal is to get a consultant on board to do an engineering assessment and environmental report, and to evaluate the options listed in the RFP. He explained that the consultant will provide feedback on the overall project and its constructability. Mr. Guzik advised that the project would be broken down into smaller components for alternate options which would allow better cost savings and efficient project completion.

Ms. Ward advised that the Township has worked with the County for their input in the RFP preparation and the County will provide the traffic studies that are available.

DISCUSSION:

Council Member/Clerk

Mr. Maher advised that he is not in favor of the one-way option for Cranbury Road. He also explained his concerns with the need to acquire easements from all the residents along Cranbury Road to allow the construction of the sidewalks.

Ms. Ward explained that the concepts and the costs will be discussed once the information has been gathered and tested.

Mr. Maher proposed using multi-use paths that will accomplish the Township's goal in moving bicyclists and pedestrians along. He suggested meandering paths along the roadway versus sidewalks. Mr. Maher urged the elimination of options in the RFP from consideration that are not feasible and will therefore expedite the process. He noted the amount of time the study will take and the timeline for the overall project completion.

Mr. Khanna noted that the Council does not want to lock the consultants into reviewing specific options.

Ms. Ward advised that all options are currently on the table for review and consideration.

Mr. Guzik explained that the Township worked with the County to provide options that would not require full-blown road widening improvements.

Ms. Ward noted that there would be three public meetings for the residents to attend and offer their input on the information provided.

Ms. Geevers addressed questions pertaining to the public presentations.

Ms. Ward explained that there would be public comment at the presentations and the RFP does not define who would be running the public meetings.

Mr. Guzik spoke about the public meetings and noted that the second meeting will not be defined until after the first meeting has been held for discussion and deliberation.

Ms. Ward advised that funding is set aside in the Capital Budget spanning a three-year timeline. She noted that the studies will be done on Cranbury Road in 2014 and an option will then be chosen for Engineering to begin their work.

Ms. Geevers asked if the one-way option is being driven by the County.

Mr. Guzik advised that the County requested this option to be part of the study.

Mr. Maher suggested that the one-way option be eliminated from the RFP unless the County would like to assist in paying for this study to be conducted.

Mr. Guzik explained that all the options will be studied for their costs and impacts. He noted that a decision will then be made on which option is best for Cranbury Road.

Ms. Samonte stated the "Complete Streets" program already includes consideration for handicap accessibility needs. She expressed concern that the RFP include guides for "urban design" because West Windsor has the suburban feel to the community.

Mr. Guzik confirmed that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a component of the RFP.

President Borek advised that the RFP does address the concerns of the residents and the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance. He noted that Cranbury Road will have its engineering challenges.

Ms. Ward discussed the roundabout option listed in the RFP and noted that there may be insufficient space for this consideration.

President Borek asked if the County would offset the costs if the one-way option is the proven choice.

Mr. Guzik advised that the proven option will be the option with lower costs, less road utilization, more bike and pedestrian lanes, and can use the existing footprint.

Mr. Maher asked why the County is not participating in the costs since Cranbury Road is a County road. He suggested that Administration have a conversation with the County regarding sharing costs for the project.

Ms. Ward noted that she is willing to reach out to the County and address the question of costs. She advised that the Township is funding the study because the project needs to be done sooner than later.

Discussion ensued over reaching out to the County for financial input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathy Brennan, 1 Courtney Drive, advised that the County Executive made a statement at a Freehold meeting that the County does not do sidewalks.

Ms. Ilene Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, addressed concerns with the RFP and noted that no one considered the increase of traffic because Cranbury Road is a country road.

Ms. Virginia Manzari, 28 Berkshire Drive, listed the reasons why a one-way on Cranbury Road would not be feasible. She also spoke about the safety issues of a one-way road.

Mr. Donald Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, noted that a one-way is the least desirable option. He listed other issues and suggestions. Mr. Watrous advised that a creative solution is needed for the sidewalks because of the trees along the road.

Ms. Sarah Thomson, 113 Cranbury Road, noted that she was in favor of Mr. Maher's suggestion for the meandering sidewalks because they would be least invasive.

Mr. Jerry Foster, 15 Suffolk Lane, Chair of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, spoke about the need for traffic calming on Cranbury Road to encourage vehicles to travel at 25 m.p.h.

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, spoke against the one-way proposal and offered a few suggestions for inclusion in the RFP. She also suggested that the firms receiving the RFP should attempt to design some creative solutions.

Mr. Rick Visovsky, 7 Oakwood Way, advised that he does not see a snapshot of what the Cranbury Road residents desire in the all encompassing and comprehensive RFP. He noted that the RFP does not lay out anything as suggested and recommended coming up with an open ended RFP.

Ms. Kattrina Schmitzer, 85 Cranbury Road, thanked the Council and Administration for the opportunity to discuss the RFP. She advised that the residents have put a lot of hard work into the project. Ms. Schmitzer noted that she is not in favor of the one-way option.

Ms. Geevers asked for a definition of a "meandering path".

Mr. Maher provided an explanation and noted that the path was similar to those seen on the island of Nantucket.

Ms. Samonte advised that the speed on Cranbury Road is a huge factor in safety and should be studied thoroughly.

Ms. Geevers suggested delineating the costs for each option.

Mr. Guzik explained that the costs in the RFP already break out the fees for the traffic study and each one of the concepts.

Ms. Samonte spoke about the full scope of the project to include sidewalks, bike paths, vehicular speed, and safety.

Mr. Maher urged Administration to reach out to the County to make sure they come to the table with financial assistance for the project.

Mr. Borek noted that the residents brought up valuable points and now the process must move forward for the engineering reviews. He advised that the Council would not approve anything that would negatively impact the residents.

Mr. Maher asked to review the RFP again before it is made available to the vendors.

Ms. Ward advised that this would not be possible because the Engineering Division anticipates releasing the RFP tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, spoke about the obstacles that will be encountered with this project. He also urged Council not to cancel the October 15th Business Session.

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, noted her disappointment that the RFP will not be amended before it is sent out.

Ms. Ilene Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, urged consideration of all the options because safety for the residents is the primary goal.

Mr. Donald Watrous, 131 Cranbury Road, asked if the Township will need to condemn existing rights-of-way for the construction of the sidewalks.

Ms. Samirah Akhlaq, 109 Cranbury Road, noted that a path is safer than no path at all.

Mr. Scott Davis, 139 Cranbury Road, thanked Council for working in a collaborative fashion. He advised that each option should be given equal consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Khanna
Second: Samonte
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township