



TOWN OF PELHAM
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2020

Location: Police Department Community Room

Time: 1:00 PM

Attendance: Jeff Gowan, Chief Joseph Roark, Chief James Midgley, Frank Ferreira, Peter Zodi, Jean Warren, Bob McCarthy, Steven Keach and Celia Lingley taking meeting minutes.

Chairman Roark opened the meeting at 1:07 PM

Jeff advised that the Town IT Director, Brian Demers, is working on a web page for the Highway Safety Committee. There will be postings of the agendas and meeting minutes. Possible change of name for the group to Technical Review Committee that would include inspectors and others if the idea is supported by the BOS.

1. HSC review of revised road layout for the Neil Fineman 2018 Trust & Lemieux, Albert III & Christine (Currier Road) subdivision, PB Case PL2019-00024, Map 35, Lots 10-200, 10-312 & 10-351 currently before the Planning Board with next meeting set for 2-3-2020

Jeff advised first topic would be to revisit prior advice. Currier Road and the Fineman development. Third access discussion. There are drainage issues, is the third access needed?

Frank advised the middle drainage area is a nightmare because it is so steep.

Chief Midgley stated that the original plan did not meet his specifications, but now that there have been changes, he believes there is no need for the third access because his specifications have been met with access one and two. Chief Roark agreed as long as there are no specs for length of road. Planning Director Gowan confirmed that the only length restrictions are for cul-de-sacs. Chief Roark advised he would agree with Chief Midgley, third access not needed.

Steve Keach advised concerns for the drainage becoming a burden on the Town and having that third access really "brings nothing to the party".

Chief Roark advised that if this was built in all one phase, he has no issues.

Discussion with Steve and Frank regarding current drainage systems to maintain and the extra access would only increase the issues for Currier Road. Steve also described that the land slopes away from Currier on the left-hand side of the map (southern access point at the former Kirby driveway) so no negative drainage impacts to Currier. The HSC agreed there are no public safety benefits, so no need for the middle access from Currier.

Discussion regarding the Priscilla Pike property and the fact that Mr. Zohdi's plan would resolve the existing drainage issues related to Peabody but Priscilla's driveway would have to be rebuilt. During the Planning Board site walk the road and driveway changes were discussed Priscilla was unable to grasp what her new driveway would look like. Mr. Zohdi will locate a Pelham driveway with the same slope and length of her proposed driveway and invite Priscilla to visit that property so she can see what her new driveway would look like.

Chief Roark made a motion to recommend that the access from Peabody to the southern access point is acceptable from a safety standpoint and that the "middle" access point be removed with the condition that the road is built all at once without being phased. Frank second the motion. All voted yes, no oppositions. Passed

Steve advised there was an issue with cars being able to pass each other in the area of #22 Peabody. Mr. McCarthy is willing to widen that portion of Peabody when he does other improvements to the road, so it is a consistent width from beginning to end.

Names: some of the proposed were Stonegate Drive, Stoneridge Drive, Woodland Drive, Fieldstone Drive, Stonehaven Drive and Thistlewood Drive. Midgley said no more Stones, we have enough. Roark said he liked Thistlewood. Discussion and all liked the name Thistle wood.

2. Discussion about the status and potential solutions related to the Plaza well (in the vicinity of the post office and new Dunkins) that overflows and causes flooding in the back-plaza parking lot and along portions of Livingston. This is a private commercial well that is impacting Town property and potentially public safety.

Plaza. Discussion. Peter advised his last involvement with the Plaza was the old Dunkin Donuts. Chief Midgley was discussing the Knox Boxes and his effort to clear that up. He advised he has a master key to every building now in the form of an Axe and pry bar, but he would like to clear up the Knox Box issue.

Peter Zodi and his group left the meeting as this time.

Discussion regarding the well issues at the Plaza and the overflows causing problems. There are two artesian wells there and at least one is overflowing. It has been brought up a few times that it needs to be fixed and plumbers have given options to fix it, it just hasn't been fixed yet.

They have been told a relief valve can be placed on top of wells that act like check valves. The overflow should be piped underground from the well head to a discharge point that prevents icing that currently impacts Livingston Road. The spilling is affecting Tractor Trailer rigs that park in the area and the runoff winds up in Beaver Brook. The water is blowing out and there can be 6 inches or more of ice build-up.

Discussion also regarding the septic system and so many fixes have been done on the property by different contractors. Frank mentioned that replacing the portion of Tony's brook piped under the Plaza parking lot would be extremely expensive.

Addressing of the Plaza. Discussion. Chief Midgley advised the back of the units need to be marked. The units, the electrical and the propane all needs to be marked. This would avoid having to shut down the entire plaza when something happens. Discussion regarding the process for marking, whether left to right with lettering or numbering. Alarm systems need to be identified. E-911 advises they have is listed as 150 Bridge Street, Units 1,2,3 etc. Discussion tabled at this time because of changes that will be happening. They are pulling out the Dunkin Donuts, the dry cleaners and the hair salon. The dry cleaner etc. will be moving down the plaza. Liquor store is possibly staying in a stand-alone building if submitted to the Planning board and approved.

Chief Roark advised that regarding the well issues, he recalled that this was addressed when the change in Dunkin Donuts was being reviewed and developer said he would fix the well at that time. Chief Roark requested Jeff to research this because he is sure it was supposed to be fixed a while ago. Chief Roark also requested a letter be sent to get a timetable for the fix, since the flooding and icing is a public nuisance.

Jeff inquired if the letter should be all three topics and Chief Roark would like to see one letter for the well and drainage issues, and another letter regarding the numbering issues.

Members discussed the flooding and drainage issues at the plaza again to include the new traffic pattern and the curbing and complaints of possible damaged cars because of the granite curbs. Possible lighting needed and explanations as to why it was changed. They received same type of complaints when the round-a-bouts were built. People will get used to it soon and the complaints will go away.

No more discussions.

Chief Roark made a motion to adjourn meeting at 1:40, Frank 2nd the motion. All voted yes, meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.