



Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.
PO Box 600, Manhasset, New York 11030-0600
(Greater Council)

Next Meeting: Feb 11, 2013
TNH Law Library 7:30 PM

Plandome Road Parking Committee
Meeting Summary 1/14/13

A regular meeting of the Plandome Road Parking Committee was held at 7:30pm at the Town of North Hempstead Town Hall Law Library in Manhasset, New York with Richard Bentley serving as Interim Convenor (chair) and Recording Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:35pm with a round table introduction of the following members present:

Bayview Civic Association:

John Minogue
Teresa Tranfaglia

Coalition Safer Manhasset:

Katie Miller

Chamber of Commerce:

Lois Silva

Greater Council:

Rich Bentley
Andrew Schwenk
Susan Auriemma

Manhasset Park District:

John Regan
Mark Sauvigne
David Paterson

Town of North Hempstead:

Anna Kaplan, TNH Councilwoman
Sabereh Samet, TNH Legis Aide
Andrew DeMartin, TNH Public Safety

Guest Present:

Pat Grace, Manhasset Press
Tara King, Resident

Absent were:

Ed Wassmer, Chamber of Comm
Marion Endrizzi, Greater Council
Lee Tamaras, Chamber of Comm.

Mr. Bentley reviewed the draft agenda distributed prior to the meeting and members present agreed with this approach.

Mission: Acceptable as presented in Agenda materials

Constituencies: After discussion, members present consented that efforts are needed to involve more landlord commercial property owners on this Committee, and that a local Mayor be added; Barbara Donno suggested. Lois Silva agreed to get contact information to Mr. Bentley to invite Mr. Ed King (property owner/ landlord) for future participation.

It was agreed that it is impractical to expect every member to attend every meeting, but more important that each constituency is represented at each meeting. Those present at a meeting are responsible to update the absent members of their constituency, and to keep their constituencies up to date with committee's progress. Mr. Bentley offered the use of the Greater Council's website as a place to publically post committee information. Councilwoman Kaplan agreed to ensure TNH staff present at meeting where a specific topic is germane to their expertise.

Committee Chair: Mr. Bentley agreed to be an Interim Convenor but not its permanent Chairperson. After discussion, members determined selection of chair be postponed until the following meeting so that members who were unable to make this meeting have the opportunity to participate in the selection, and perhaps volunteer for the role.

Future Meeting Dates: It was agreed to hold future meetings on the **2nd Monday of each month**; Ms. Samet will reserve Law Library through June and will then determine whether to break for summer months when participation is too low.

Merchant Survey Planned. An already identified contributing problem is merchant employee parking during the prime workday hours Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm. Due to insufficient merchant employee parking, many defer to use street parking, and moving vehicles throughout the day to a 'new' street space. This hampers employee productivity, as well as loss of those spaces for shopper/customers. Chamber has drafted a survey to quantify an adequate # of employee parking spaces. Councilwoman Kaplan agreed that TNH will concurrently distribute the survey with a TNH distribution prepared to storeowners on other issues, but survey has not yet been provided. Chamber members present were asked to share a draft of the survey with committee members ASAP. If additional questions are identified to assist this committee mission, such questions could be added on the same survey. Mr. Bentley agreed to distribute via eMail to members as soon as Chamber provides the draft.

Past Studies: Commissioner Regan distributed two past parking related studies performed in [1953](#) and [2007](#). All Members were asked to read both studies prior to the next meeting; Posted on the Greater Council website, "Our Projects" tab, scroll to section heading "Plandome Rd Parking Committee".

Round Table Member thoughts: Members were asked to share their initial thoughts on Parking to provide a basis to plan future meeting agenda specific topics. The following thoughts were voiced; common themes were consolidated; and intentionally not in any specific order or attributed to the members:

1. Employee Parking is a stable daily on-street parking problem source in the Plandome Rd commercial corridor.
2. Merchants have the highest vested interest since they rely on shoppers and employees for a healthy business.
3. Meters will always be 'outsmarted' by the employee parkers. They know the attendant schedule and violate the parking restriction whenever the 'coast is clear'; as opposed to shoppers that more often get randomly caught.
4. Create parking off-site for M-F daytime employee parking, with shuttle if too distant to Plandome Rd. Options to consider- Sunset Chapels, Macy's, St Mary's, Valley Park, NC-DPW property on Maple St. Others believe use of any location beyond a reasonable walking distance such as Macy's with a shuttle would likely have only short term success. Shuttle scheduling becomes a hassle to employees. Hopefully an issue the survey will target.
5. Can TNH condemn a property/lot/or building or eminent domain to create sufficient new parking? Focus on commercial zoned properties wherever possible; avoid conversion or expansion into any current residential zones.
6. Current no-painted-lined spaces frequently leave significant but un-parkable spacing gaps between parked cars throughout the day. Painting lines for street parking helps maximize # spaces.
7. Resources such as "Vision Long Island" should be consulted. Investigate communities going through the same problem, such as Huntington to learn from them. Did meters solve the problem in Great Neck, in Port Washington?
8. Known conflicting support and opposition for parking meters. Higher degree of support from Merchants, but higher opposition from residents. Meters are unsightly. Less staff time to enforce meters than chalk tire marking.
9. Some merchants contributing to the problem where they are renting spaces to out-of-town LIRR commuters.
10. Real problem is Enforcement; NCPD as well as TNH Code Enforcement can currently issue summons' on Plandome Rd. General consensus is that NCPD is understaffed to be able to enforce parking, usually enforce only where a hazard exists (hydrants, double parkers) is observed while officers are on the road performing VTL or other law enforcement. TNH Enforcement must spread staff Town-wide; unable to dedicate solely here. Current low enforcement cycles invites LIRR Commuters to more frequently risk parking all day on Plandome Rd and Side streets. Merchants on Orchard regularly monitor and know street parking is not being used by LIRR commuters on that road. More enforcement – like what you see in the Hamptons all summer- drivers don't even consider breaking the law when there is high visible enforcement present. TNH Public Safety responds to all 311 enforcement complaints, often on same day.
11. Some merchants have grandfathered permits to conduct parking businesses, but many are doing it illegally – an often cash business that undermines taxes as well as hurt other merchants and community (Zelco/American Legion as potential contributors to the problem) by contributing to driving up rents. Clearly during poor economic periods, merchants are more likely to capitalize on 'easy' available income. Enforcement difficult to prove since it must be observed by officer.
12. Committee asked TNH for the list of grandfathered permitted merchants that can legally conduct parking businesses, including the number of parking spaces they are permitted for, and its expiration date.
13. Meters are just one method to enforce and may or may not be the best- committee should keep all options on the table, even if each solution is partial solution. Many parts can make the whole.
14. An intermunicipal agreement (IMA) between the TNH & MPD is worthy to continue to explore for improved enforcement capabilities, even if it does not include provision for installation of parking meters.
15. TNH Code enforcement addresses large scale problems in sweeps, but with only short term success. Example was where last year they did a focused sweep near Jefferson Auto and 5 Star Limo believed to be openly and illegally conducting their business on public streets. After a concentrated sweep, the problem was virtually eradicated. Once sweep was over, same problem grew back; now back to same condition as prior to that sweep.
16. Lot behind Rite Aid is doing more towing; believed that LIRR commuters were increasingly using the lot.
17. TNH BZA hearing on proposed New 'subway' (near A&F Market) is Feb 13th. Another lunchtime food establishment is bound to create additional parking demand, but has no parking available.
18. Perhaps use current 90-minute parking zones (predominantly zones in front of commercial establishments on side streets) and create a "medallion" policy, whereby employees can purchase medallions that will allow them to park for the standard 8 hour shift. Would need high controls to prevent medallion possession by LIRR commuters.
19. A tier-ed parking garage – somewhere- to create additional parking, designed to control/prevent use by LIRR commuters. A know solution also having resident opposition, but maybe it can be part of the whole solution.
20. Keep residents in mind as #1 impacted by whatever change is made.
21. Constant U-turn on side streets – since there is no other way for a vehicle to legally turn around on Plandome Rd; Traffic circle at end of strip (Colonial Pwky) was studied by 1 consultant for potential as a small traffic circle, but did not have sufficient turn radius space to pursue.
22. Would prefer this committee to include time frames for action on any proposed solutions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rich Bentley