



Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

(Greater Council)

PO Box 600, Manhasset, New York 11030-0600

www.manhassetcivic.org

Executive Board /Officers 2012-13

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Manhasset Preservation Society***

November 24, 2012

An Open Letter to:
Supervisor Jon Kaiman
Councilwoman Anna Kaplan
Town of North Hempstead (TNH)

Subject: Manhasset Park District's (MPD) Plandome Rd Parking Meter Plan

Dear Jon and Anna:

Parking meter expansion onto Plandome Rd and its side streets require far more time for planning, public discussion and education; a decision must not be rushed. We applaud Councilwoman Kaplan for sharing with the Greater Council a draft of the proposed Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA) with MPD for comment. Indeed there are a host of related questions that need to be formulated and answered. We urge you and the Town Board to make certain the Manhasset community has increased opportunities to openly discuss this matter in the context of a comprehensive plan prior to any TNH formal public hearing and before any Town decision.

Thus far only relatively short discussions have been hosted on this matter, one that will greatly impact Manhasset's downtown. TNH had organized a Plandome Rd. Parking Committee with multiple constituencies to study downtown parking related issues and options, but it met only once on 7/24/12 with no meeting summary ever being released and attendees being led to believe that many more planning meetings would continue until recommendations were possible. That committee has never met again. Despite little public discussion and no public education on the pro's, con's and options, the MPD has truncated resident input by preemptive expedited negotiations with TNH to give MPD control of all parking meters on Plandome Rd. as well as the adjacent side streets.

MPD is Known for Secrecy and Lack of Transparency. TNH giving MPD control of Plandome Rd. and side street parking meters is of great concern due to MPD's demonstrated secrecy. The MPD has made ZERO efforts to neither educate nor involve the Manhasset residents on its Plandome Rd. parking meter plan. The MPD regularly demonstrates itself being the epitome of a lack of transparency; hiding its planning and actions from the Manhasset residents it serves, and done within the secrecy of its 3 elected commissioners. Look at the MPD website - it boldly proclaims their next MPD meeting is on September 6 (more than two months ago and provides only ONE financial document from 2009. No meeting agendas, No current budget, No current annual certified financial statement, No current budget, No meeting summaries or minutes, nor any mention of any planned or proposed capital projects. MPD regularly demonstrated a willy-nilly approach to move their 'scheduled' board meetings from date to date, making it virtually impossible for any resident to attend them with any regularity. Thus far, the only thing we do know is that MPD's 2013 budget (requires TNH approval) includes about \$90K in new income from Plandome Rd. parking meters, although no defined expenses are associated with it. While we understand the lure of the MPD's plan enticing the TNH's transfer of roadway maintenance and upkeep obligation to the MPD (such as street sweeping and snow plowing), and at the same time opening new revenue sharing sources from metered parking and ticket income, but a prudent long term plan requires great resident involvement for real success..

Comprehensive Vision Planning is Needed: Manhasset needs a more comprehensive strategic vision plan that addresses not just the Plandome roadway traffic calming elements, but one that addresses ALL the components of successful vibrant downtown. The Town's recent decision, announced at the 10/17 Bayview Civic Annual meeting, to abandon the

NYS-DOT Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) grant for Phase 1 of the long awaited Plandome Rd Vision Plan while a new grant process would be sought, presents the opportunity to develop a more comprehensive Vision plan. Given the long delay in Plandome Rd roadway construction to achieve traffic calming, we urge a well balanced stakeholder group be reconvened to review the roadway 'lessons learned" during the failed NYS-DOT approval process and update Manhasset's Plandome Rd. Vision Plan (Northern Blvd to Webster Ave), including parking solutions. We therefore urge TNH to suspend its IMA planning with MPD on parking meter matters until:

- A stakeholder planning process is reconvened to study parking within the broader Plandome Rd. Vision process, so that all Plandome Rd. downtown projects are consistent with a long term Vision Plan.
- The Manhasset community is educated on the underlying rationale (pro's and con's) of parking meters on Plandome Rd., and
- Once a plan is ready, including meaningful public discussion of the plan prior to a formal Town Board public hearing.

Manhasset's civic leaders on the Greater Council stand ready with open ears and minds to participate alongside all other local constituencies in this process to achieve a comprehensive Plandome Rd Vision Plan.

Sincerely,

Rich Bentley, President
Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

Cc: Greater Council eList