

Plandome Road Parking Committee Meeting Summary 10/7/13

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. The following individuals were present:

Marion Endrizzi, Greater Council
Mark Sauvigne, MPD
Andrew Schwenk, Strathmore Civic Assoc.
Sue Auriemma, Greater Council
Teresa Tranfuglia, Bayview Civic
John Minogue, Baview Civic
Bruce Bent, Self
Rich Bentley, Greater Council
Nancy Morris, Chamber of Commerce

Oral Reports on The High Cost of Free Parking by Donald Shoup:

Members who were present and had read chapters from the book offered oral reports on what they reviewed. A separate summary will be circulated. A great deal of the book focused on charging for parking in order to bring down demand and increase availability. The majority of community and the committee agree that parking meters are not desirable and that physically increasing inventory and providing alternate parking areas for employees should be the focus of our efforts.

Town Attorney

The town attorney has received the list of questions from our committee generated at the September meeting and will prepare responses. A representative is expected to attend the November meeting.

Ed King Parking Lot

Ed Wassmer spoke to Ed King who reiterated his commitment to allowing merchants/employees to park in his lot on weekends and free up shopper spaces. His counsel, however, advised Ed to open up this parking to his existing tenants only. Ed is making the physical changes to his lot that he outlined for the committee and will pursue this course of action. This will, as originally hoped, free up over twenty spaces on Plandome Road. Nancy Morris reports that she has offered her lot in the past to a merchant she knows with several employees and has never been taken up on the offer. It was agreed that a major effort needs to be made to encourage employees to use this parking lot on weekends.

Spaces behind Gallery Couture

There was mention that David Haghani might have excess spaces that could be available behind the building he owns. Ed Wassmer spoke with David about his lot. David believes he may have up to nine spaces available, and he agreed to reach out to select businesses to gauge their interest. Ed Wassmer will follow up with David before the next meeting for an update.

Meeting Frequency and Schedule

With concern over low attendance at recent meetings, Sue Auriemma asked if having meetings every other month might encourage more attendance. Those present were unanimous that monthly meetings should continue to be held so as to keep momentum going. It was also discussed that all meetings through June should be scheduled now so that members can mark their calendars and assure attendance. (See meeting dates listed

below.) There is concern over lower attendance rates by TNH members. Rich Bentley has subsequently spoken to Anna to urge her to attend meetings if at all possible and to encourage other TNH employees to do the same.

Identifying More Shopper Parking

Sue Auriemma requested that Anna inquire about the suggestion from several years ago to convert the Plandome Road taxi stand to shopper parking during the non-peak commuting hours (eg 10am-4pm and weekends). Anna reports that she and Diane O'Donnell are investigating the feasibility. Sue also inquired to Mark Sauvigne (MPD) if there would be any objection from him to adding 3 shopper parking spaces adjacent to the Hillside lot near the entrance and exits of that lot. Mark had no objections and Sue will submit request to TNH.

Number of Spots on Plandome Road

A member requested of MPD if they know how many spots would exist on Plandome Road if they were striped as individual spots. The answer was that it was in excess of 100 spots, 132 if side streets that were being considered for meters were included. Suggestion was made that perhaps offering larger spaces for SUVs and smaller spaces for compact cars could help increase number of spots. No determination has been made as to whether this is feasible or would be beneficial.

Report from Manhasset Park District

MPD is currently in contract for the property at 61 Locust Street with the intention of removing the building and creating 16-18 merchant spots so that more spots for commuters could be opened up in the Hillside Avenue lot which has better proximity to the train station. An environmental study is pending. Mark Sauvigne reports that the property adjacent to 61 Locust does not have a permit for renting parking spaces but has every appearance of renting to commuters. Suggestion is for TNH to purchase space and create a parking lot as they have with several small lots in Port Washington. Does MPD need any action by Parking Committee to introduce this idea to the Town or will MPD do so independently?

MPD needs support for project at 61 Locust and asks that Greater Council and Plandome Road Parking Committee write letters of support regarding the demolition of the building on site in the interest of creating more parking spaces. Mark Sauvigne will advise Rich Bentley and Ed Wassmer when contract has closed and permit applied for.

MPD would like to enter into an Inter-municipal Agreement with TNH as the Town did with GNPD. Rather than pay Park District employees overtime to provide enforcement on weekends, the Town would provide enforcement and split all revenue with MPD. Does MPD need support of committee to get this executed?

MPD reports that they requested a possible lease of property across from Equinox to store equipment and that for 6 months that request has been "in the Planning Department" with no apparent action taken or determination made. Does MPD need any assistance/action on the part of the Parking Committee?

MPD recently passed an ordinance that places a time limit that any vehicle can park in one of their lots. Regardless if the meter has time on it, no vehicle may remain in the same lot for more than three hours. The intent is to combat the problem of employees using the Raindeew lot and feeding meters. Rumor is that some commuters may also be parking there for the day and paying employees of local businesses to feed their meter. Under this new ordinance unless the vehicle is moved to another LOT, that vehicle will receive a ticket, even if it is moved to another space.

In a previous meeting, the suggestion was made to ask Judi Bosworth to assist in possibly negotiating a lower price for parking spots to be leased at NCDPW property. Perhaps best to wait until after election. Does MPD still want the committee to make this contact?

Post Office

Bruce Bent reports that he spoke with the Post Office and that they are extending their lease for two years. He was also told that the Post Office will do anything that is free. There is a willingness to work with the community to address parking issues but there is no budget for the USPS to RENT spaces for their trucks or employees. The committee continues to seek a solution to find alternate parking for the 40 postal trucks and the employees who drive them each day.

Illegally Rented Commuter Spots

John Minogue provided the committee with three phone numbers from the bulletin board at the train station of individuals looking to rent spaces to commuters. While the committee has been told that TNH Code Enforcement cannot issue a violation unless they see money exchange hands and it is confirmed that this transaction is for the rental of parking spaces, can the Town send a letter to the residences associated with these phone numbers notifying them that it is illegal to rent out parking spaces unless they have obtained a permit to do so? Sue Auriemma will follow up with Andy DeMartin and/or Sean Brown to determine if this can be done.

Numbers provided were the following:

646-202-0270

516-627-9254

516-779-2750

Addressing Fiefdoms

The committee feels there is potential for more spaces if small lots behind A&F and surrounding stores can be combined into one larger lot. Sue Auriemma reports that at conferences on downtown revitalization this is an effective method in increasing parking inventory but incentives must exist for the land owners. Possible tax breaks or leasing of space by the municipality? Sue will investigate possible incentives. Bruce Bent offered to identify which buildings own space in these small lots. Rich Bentley reports that Norm Nemec developed a plan that would reconfigure this space and Rich will obtain a copy for the committee.

Committee Momentum/Communication

The following suggestions were made in an effort to continue and maximize the effectiveness of this committee:

- Invite Liz Johnson of the Manhasset Press to attend and report on meetings and keep the community informed.
- Send out meeting summaries including action items determined at meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.
- Create an Open Item List like the one the Greater Council uses to continue to follow up on items presented to TNH in a systematic and consistent manner. (Please see link for a sample of the TNH Open Items list on Greater Council website.)

Action items:

- Ed to contact Anna and confirm that Town Attorney representative will attend November meeting.
- Sue to request TNH consider adding three shopper parking spaces adjacent to the MPD lot on Hillside Avenue (south side of street).
- Bruce will identify building owners who have lots in the area behind and near A&F Market.
- Sue will investigate possible incentives to break up fiefdoms of parking.

- Rich will obtain and provide the committee with the plan Norm Neme created that would combine the fiefdom of parking lots behind stores to create one larger lot with more spaces.
- Mark Sauvigne to advise Rich Bentley and Ed Wassmer when contract has been executed for 61 Locust and permit has been applied for so that these two organizations can write in support of demolition of the building and creation of new parking spaces.
- Sue to ask Sabereh to reserve the law library for dates listed below and advise if there are any dates not available.
- Sue to request of Andy that we increase enforcement near Jefferson Autobody again as use of on street parking by this business has become an issue again. Sue will also inquire as to whether letters can be sent to those residents attempting to rent parking spaces at their home.
- Mark Sauvigne to respond to questions in section regarding MPD above and advise whether support or follow up is needed on the part of the Parking Committee.
- Sue (?) to create TNH Open Items list (unless someone else would like to extract that information from this summary and prepare the list).
- Sue to invite Liz Johnson to attend future meetings. Liz should also be added to all future emails.

Proposed Remaining Meeting Dates for 2013-14 Academic Year:

- November 4
- December 9
- February 10
- March 10
- April 7
- May 12
- June 9

-All meetings will be held in the Town of North Hempstead Law Library at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

-Please note that the November and April meetings were moved to the FIRST Monday of the month due to conflicts with holidays and school vacations.

-Discussion took place regarding possibly meeting through the summer so that momentum is not lost. At November meeting it should be discussed whether a July meeting or a July and August meeting should be added to the calendar.

-All members are urged to mark their calendar NOW with these dates and not rely on meeting reminders sent out via email. Attendance at these meetings by all parties involved is critical to the committee's success.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Auriemma