

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Mayor Merkt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mrs. Thomas	Present
	Mr. Tolley	Present
	Mayor Merkt	Present

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Stephen Mountain, Township Administrator
Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADEQUATE NOTICE: Adequate notice of this meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Daily Record, Observer Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 3, 2013. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

RECAP OF POST EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTIONS

Mayor Merkt noted that there was no action taken after the August 27, 2013 executive session.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Main Street Bridge Revised Plans – Morris County Engineer Office

The new Brookside Bridge plans were presented by the Morris County Engineer Department. The width of the bridge was reduced by eliminating one sidewalk, creating a width of 36 feet 4 inches. The sidewalk is four feet wide which is the minimum requirement. The shoulder will be striped in order to reduce traffic speed. Due to the constraints of the roadway a physical barrier cannot be placed in front of the post office. The area will also be striped. The retaining wall and guide rail were altered to reduce length. Due to DEP requirements there will be no change in flood elevation. The stone will be similar to that used on the East Main Street Bridge.

Mayor Merkt noted that the Community Club is amenable to allowing a bridge crossing over the river. Mr. Hammond noted that, while the temporary walkway is not currently present in the design, it will be added to the application.

Proposed detour routes were reviewed. It was noted that the bridge will not be closed until all utilities have been moved. The minimum width of the bridge was reviewed for Mrs. Thomas.

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The meeting was opened to hearing persons present.

Craig Schrader, 1 West Main Street

It was clarified that striping shoulders is a traffic slowing measure. It was noted that a sidewalk is necessary when crossing a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Schrader stated that debris will get caught in the railing if the stream floods.

Deborah Osmun, 1 West Main Street

The height of the wall was discussed. It was noted that the bridge will be about four feet closer to her property.

Pat Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street

Mrs. Zimmerman stated that the bridge is still too wide and she compared measurements of other town bridges. She recommended placing wires underground.

Mr. Hammond stated that the high traffic volume and geometry of the road does not allow for a narrower bridge. Larger vehicles will be forced to the other side of the road when turning. He stated that drivers will not reduce their speed when crossing the short bridge. Mrs. Zimmerman requested an exception to the State standards since Brookside is an historic district.

Norm Preston, West Main Street

It was noted that the addition of the sidewalk should improve site distance.

Deborah Osmun, 1 West Main Street

It was noted that the sidewalk is raised six inches.

Cindy Slate, 1 Galloway Drive

Ms. Slate was present representing the Community Club. She questioned where the construction vehicles will be parked. Mr. Hammond stated that they will approach the Community Club and gain authorization before parking any vehicles. Mr. Tolley recommended disbursing the equipment among several lots so as to not burden the Community Club.

Bob Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street

Mr. Zimmerman suggesting placing speed bumps to slow traffic and it was noted that speed bumps can be placed at the discretion of the Township; however, they should not be placed directly on the bridge.

Pat Zimmerman, West Main Street

There was a brief discussion on the placement of the sidewalk.

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Norm Preston, West Main Street

Mr. Preston noted problems that can occur if a contractor continuously starts and stops a project. Mr. Hammond noted that the contractor is penalized for not completing the work on schedule.

Mr. Strobel read a letter from a 7th grader encouraging students to spread the word that the bridge will be under construction.

There was further discussion regarding striping and the width of the bridge.

Mr. Hammond stated that the design will be filed with the DEP for approval. The project is scheduled to go out for bid in March or April.

PRESENTATION

Municipal Complex – Facilities Committee

Pat Zimmerman and Gerry Marcus reviewed the history of the Municipal Complex. The positive and negative aspects of the Township Library, Town Offices, Emergency Services Building, Police Station and 4 West Main Street were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from August 27, 2013. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve.

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the executive session meeting minutes from August 27, 2013. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve.

DISCUSSION

Pitney Farm

Mr. Mountain stated that the material was provided for Committee review. The Committee had no comments at the time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There being no comments, hearing persons present was closed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September 24, 2013 Township Committee meeting will be held at Brookrace Pavilion.

Mr. Mountain reviewed recent work at Mosle. Initially, tree and debris from Superstorm Sandy were being removed. In an effort to remove the trees an underground line was damaged. The line has since been repaired. The Mendham Magic and DPW are currently working to remove any remaining rocks along the trail. The trail has not been extended further than the approved area. It was noted that Township labor is subsidized by funds raised by a private donor or the recreation Commission for maintenance of trails.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Introduction

ORDINANCE 9-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM DELETING CHAPTER 20 "SOIL EXTRACTION REGULATIONS" AND CHAPTER 24 "LOT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT" AND CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 20 "LAND DISTURBANCE"

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve. Second reading and public hearing is scheduled for October 29, 2013

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2013-118

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2013-119

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2013-120

ACKNOWLEDGE ADJUSTMENTS ISSUED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Strobel so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members voted to approve.

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RESOLUTION 2013-121

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Personnel – Police Department

Contract – Police Department

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members voted to approve.

DISCUSSION

None

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Pat Hayden, Carol Drive

Ms. Hayden questioned placing a three way stop at the bridge. Chief Crawford noted that the change must be approved and may prove awkward. There was discussion regarding speed limits.

Norm Preston, West Main Street

Mr. Preston stated that construction and landscaping vehicles already have difficulty navigating the bridge. He agreed a narrower bridge would not work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee entered executive session at 9:35 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made the Committee returned from executive session at 10:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk