

APPROVED: March 10, 2008

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
JOINT MEETING WITH THE WEST WINDSOR PARKING AUTHORITY  
December 8, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: President Anklowitz called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on November 16, 2007.

ATTENDEES: President: Anklowitz; Vice President: Borek; Council: Geever, Morgan; Members of the West Windsor Parking Authority: Chairman: Lupo; Miller, Mitchell, Rumack, Crane, Girandola; Deputy Township Clerk: Huber

ABSENT: Kleinman

President Anklowitz opened the meeting. He announced that the West Windsor Historical Society will be holding an Open House at the Schenck Farmstead tomorrow from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Huber led the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Lynch, 21 Cranbury Road, advised that a key issue to the east-side parking is the EMR building (Electro Mechanical Research, Inc.). He suggested that the building be re-built with parking underneath the building and offices on top. His second suggestion would be a parking lot at Alexander Road and Route One in the area of the Dinky line tracks.

Mr. Alan Burger, 39 Saratoga Drive, voiced his frustration about being a resident of West Windsor and not being able to park at the train station. He inquired about special parking for residents who have medical appointments and need to take the train to the city. Mr. Burger advised that the redevelopment project needs leadership in order for the residents to support the plan.

Ms. Ina Marx, 101 Claridge Court, Apt. 4, advised there has to be a creative solution to parking at the train station and inquired about what happens once a permit is no longer used by a recipient.

Mr. Marshall Lerner, 3 Sapphire Drive, thanked the Parking Authority and the Council for holding this meeting. He advised that parking is not just an issue for West Windsor, but for the surrounding municipalities as well.

Mr. Dan Fabrizio, 8 Exeter Court, voiced that he is not in favor of parking decks or an increase in his parking permit fees.

Mr. Frank Shallcross, 12 Jeffrey Lane, voiced his concern about there not being enough land to add additional parking.

Mr. Bryan Maher, 135 Penn Lyle Road, voiced his concern that the redevelopment project should be tax neutral and that he is not in favor of Mr. Goldin's suggestions in the recent Princeton Packet article.

Mr. Al Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, suggested that the Dinky from Princeton be used more to reduce the traffic from Princeton to the train station.

Mrs. Janet Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, suggested the use of a non-resident satellite parking area, and a shuttle that could take the commuters into the train station to help reduce traffic.

Mr. Joshua Leinsdorf, 35 Forester Drive, Princeton, advised that the answer is public transportation to reduce the traffic to the train station. He noted currently there is very little bus service to the train station.

Mr. Robert Beard, 370 Village Road, East, suggested combining the sale of a residence with a parking permit for the train station to make it more attractive to buyers.

Mr. Wesley Mostello, 168 Penn Lyle Road, noted that bus service is needed for both residents and non-residents to the train station. He is concerned that garages will be placed only on

the west side of the tracks. Mr. Mostello noted that sound decisions need to be made.

Mr. Larry Rubinstein, 20 Oakwood Way, suggested that parking permit prices be set up similar to the airport, where the closer you park the higher the premium.

Mr. Michael Karp, 11 Candlewood Drive, advised that the main theme today is what can be done with the parking dilemma at the train station. He noted that any solution needs to be tax neutral and that train station parking has to be incorporated in the overall redevelopment plan.

Ms. Laura Poyd, 89 Tennyson Drive, advised that she commutes from Plainsboro and that there is no bus service from Plainsboro Township to the train station and that unless you are at the train station early you don't get a spot. She noted her support for a parking garage at the train station.

Mr. Joseph Jensen, 7 Glengarry Way, advised that if you add additional parking you add additional traffic and the current infrastructure cannot handle it. He suggested working on providing bus service to the train station to help reduce traffic.

Mr. Horan - Dutch Neck Estates, advised he commutes to the city everyday and that New Jersey Transit's goal is to increase mass transit ridership. He noted that the parking problem is a separate issue from the redevelopment project and that before adding additional parking a review of what effect this will have on the entire area needs to be done.

President Anklowitz acknowledged the presence of Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein; Steve Decter, Vice Chairman of the Planning Board; and Susan Abbey, Vice Chair of the Zoning Board. President Anklowitz turned the meeting over to Mr. Andy Lupo, Chairman of the West Windsor Parking Authority.

Mr. Lupo thanked President Anklowitz for organizing this meeting and introduced members of the Parking Authority and staff who were present.

WEST WINDSOR PARKING AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Mr. Lupo gave a short presentation on the West Windsor Parking Authority's need for meeting growth at the train station.

Introduction

The West Windsor Parking Authority's role is central to the question of parking demand, and the future of parking at the Princeton Junction Train Station. The West Windsor Parking Authority recognizes its duty to the taxpayers of West Windsor, as well as to the customers of the Parking Authority.

Overview of the West Windsor Parking Authority

The Parking Authority was founded in 1971 to provide safe, convenient, and secure access to as many station travelers as possible, in a way that maximizes value for West Windsor customers and enhances the quality of life for West Windsor Township. It is governed by Council appointed board of five members. There are over 7,300 daily travelers.

Operating Facts

There are 3,600 spaces of which 2,600 are accessible by permit, and 1,000 are open for daily first-come-first-served use. There are 3,900 permit holders who have access to 2,600 spaces, a ratio of 1.5 permits per space. Forty percent of permit holders have held them for ten years or more, while fewer than twenty percent have had a permit for a year or less. Between 400 and 500 permits are issued annually.

There are almost 8,400 cars registered with the Parking Authority; about two cars per permit. Approximately forty-five percent of all permits are held by West Windsor residents, fourteen percent from Princeton and ten percent from Plainsboro. Parkers pay an effective price per month of: \$33.00 - Resident; \$55.00 - Non-Resident; and \$80.00 - Daily (20 day month @ \$4.00).

There are about 5,200 applicants on waitlist and the wait can be up to seven years. Approximately forty-seven percent of all

waiting are West Windsor residents, twelve percent Plainsboro, and ten percent Princeton. There will be almost five hundred from this list who will be granted a permit this year.

#### Demand for Parking

Based on current operating data, demand for parking ranges between 7,000-8,000, which is 2,000-3,000 above current capacity. Further study will be done to quantify other factors influencing current demand: Kiss and Ride; Bus and Dinky travelers; and other station users (Hamilton, Jersey Avenue, etc.) Based on today's demand, there are about 2,600 customers who would like to park, but can't. The majority of these potential customers are West Windsor residents. This demand will grow, influenced by: New Jersey Transit capacity increases, Township population growth, and highway traffic congestion.

#### Short Term Initiatives

The waiting list is currently being studied for currency and accuracy. A review of West Windsor Parking Authority operations is being conducted. All Parking Authority policies are being reviewed, inclusive of pricing, registration processes, security, and black market prevention.

#### Long Term Initiatives

A capacity increase study will be formally initiated with consideration for: future growth; parking convenience for station use; traffic flow to and from station; aesthetics of area, and enhancement of bordering neighborhoods; pricing versus value; contingencies while constructing.

#### Long Term - the big "G"

A garage is the likely best way to address current and future demand. Objectives for this initiative would be to: provide parking to as many residents who need it; provide parkers and pedestrians continued convenient and safe access to station at all times of day; ensure that traffic flows freely, to and from; ensure area landscape is improved; minimize disruption of operations during construction; and plan so that the project is complimentary with other development initiatives.

Next Steps

West Windsor Parking Authority will pursue capacity study to be completed early next year.

Mr. Lupo advised that New Jersey Transit is willing to work with the Parking Authority but needs to see that the Township supports the idea of moving forward.

President Anklowitz inquired about residents having the ability to park on weekends for free in the Wallace Road Permit Lot.

Mr. Lupo advised that residents can park in the Wallace Road Permit Lot on Saturday and Sunday at no charge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ina Marx, 101 Claridge Court, voiced her support for satellite parking. She commented that today's meeting attendance far exceeds a normal Council meeting and thanked the Council and Parking Authority for conducting the meeting. Ms. Marx encouraged more Council meetings being held during the day.

Mr. Al Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, inquired who has control over additional parking areas since there are so many landowners involved.

Mr. Lupo advised that if additional parking facilities are built on West Windsor Township property, then it would be the Parking Authority and the Township; and if it is on New Jersey Transit property then the Parking Authority would partner with New Jersey Transit.

Ms. Gloria Lieberman, 388 North Post Road, voiced her concern that the current infrastructure will not handle additional traffic.

Mr. Paul Luksa, 6 Trumbull Court, expressed his concern that with adding additional parking the trains will become even more crowded than they currently are. He noted his support for satellite parking areas.

Mr. Lupo advised that the Parking Authority is currently working with New Jersey Transit to add additional cars to the trains to help alleviate the overcrowding.

Mr. David Siegel, 17 Berrien Avenue, voiced his support for looking into satellite parking and inquired when the Wallace Road Permit Lot weekend parking started. He urged Council to continue to hold meetings on weekends.

Mr. Lupo advised that parking at the Wallace Road Permit Lot on weekends for no fee is a new idea.

Mr. George Martch, 30 Woodhollow Road, inquired about trading properties within the redevelopment area for additional parking and voiced the possibility of the need for a Transportation Authority for the Township. He noted that the Hillier plan did not address mass transit in the train station area.

Mr. Dan Fabrizio, 8 Exeter Court, thanked the Parking Authority for a great presentation and the good work they do. He suggested the possibility of a wooden boardwalk through the wetlands to the train station from the current compost facility if additional parking is placed there. Mr. Fabrizio inquired about additional bike lockers and the need to review traffic on the Washington Road bridge side. He suggested an additional stop along the Dinky Line in the area of Route One and Alexander Road.

Mr. Lupo advised that the Parking Authority is currently reviewing the following areas for possible garage locations: the Wallace Road Daily and Permit Lot, the Alexander Road Lot, Vaughn Road Lot, and the compost facility.

Ms. Miller advised that additional bike racks are being donated to the Parking Authority by the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance in early 2008.

Mr. Marshall Lerner, 3 Sapphire Drive, encouraged the Council to continue to hold meetings on weekends. He noted that there is no long term solution, that it is not inexpensive, and encouraged the Parking Authority and Council to continue to seek the views of the public. Mr. Lerner suggested that area businesses be approached to see if additional parking is available at their sites.

Mr. Lupo advised that this idea has been explored, but that the landowners want an exurbanite rate.

Mr. Alan Burger, 39 Saratoga Drive, again emphasized that the Parking Authority needs to review their procedure on medical necessity parking.

Mr. Bryan Maher, 135 Penn Lyle Road, encouraged development on the west side of the train station versus the east side and noted that no mention of the Monmouth Junction station has taken place. He encouraged the Council to speak with New Jersey Transit regarding this option.

Ms. Susan Abbey, 5 Scott Avenue, inquired about the daily ridership numbers. She voiced her opinion that Bus Rapid Transits (BRTs) are for large cities and not for areas like West Windsor. She encouraged the Parking Authority to continue to review additional parking at office complexes within the train station area. Ms. Abbey noted the BRT is not in the Township's control and will not be viable for years to come. She encouraged Council to continue to work with the Parking Authority and to review decisions regarding additional parking sooner rather than later.

Ms. Doris Barsauskas, 18 Hamilton Drive, voiced her pleasure in the positive results of today's meeting.

Mr. Frank Shallcross, 12 Jeffrey Lane, noted there are no easy answers and advised that currently the train station area is not bike and pedestrian friendly. He voiced his concerns about the current infrastructure around the train station.

Ms. Laura Poyd, 89 Tennyson Drive, again voiced her frustration about the parking at the train station.



Mr. Rob Fraser, 7 Douglas Drive, expressed his opinion on how to assist residents with disability and medical issues who need to use the train station. He inquired if a stipulation for purchasing a parking permit could be implemented requiring proof of a job. Mr. Fraser advised that adding additional parking at the train station should not be held up with decisions regarding the redevelopment project.

Mr. Bob Akens, 32 Windsor Drive, noted that by adding additional parking spaces traffic would be reduced around the train station, because the "kiss and ride" trips would be eliminated. He inquired as to how many garages are needed and added that if additional residences are built in the train station area it will only add to the traffic congestion problems in the Township.

Mr. David Siegel, 17 Berrien Avenue, voiced his agreement with several of Mr. Akens comments and suggested that the Dinky Line be utilized more. He gave several suggestions on additional parking areas throughout the Township.

Mr. George Martch, 30 Woodhollow Road, again voiced the need for a West Windsor Transportation Authority. He noted that he has asked the Mayor to review the Route 571 traffic from East Windsor. Mr. Martch also voiced his concern that with the hospital being relocated to Plainsboro, traffic within West Windsor will increase.

Ms. Miller addressed the issue of traffic and the possibility of bus service along Route 571.

Mr. Tom Crane thanked the Council for showing leadership in moving the parking issues to the forefront.

Mr. Ron Rumack addressed the issue of residents having to utilize the Alexander Road or Washington Road bridges to access the train station. He noted that the Parking Authority has been reviewing the waiting list for the past six months. Mr. Rumack noted that a lot of different elements need to be reviewed and that the Parking Authority is trying to move forward. The immediate need is additional parking for residents.

Ms. Geevers inquired if after the rush hour of commuter traffic is over, could the enforcement officers sell additional spaces if available.

Mr. Lupo advised that the Parking Authority is currently reviewing this.

Mr. Morgan noted that the parking is not going to be fixed on the backs of West Windsor taxpayers. He advised that the members of the West Windsor Parking Authority are volunteers and this meeting is a sign that the Council supports their work. Mr. Morgan advised that West Windsor has a regional rail station and that its residents are the main priority. He noted that partnering with New Jersey Transit is a priority and that satellite parking is a necessity. Mr. Morgan suggested that the review of the track into Plainsboro be examined and that he would like to see Congressman Rush Holt more involved. He thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

Mr. Borek thanked everyone for coming and suggested that the Parking Authority send a letter to Administration about the availability of parking for residents on weekends at the Wallace Road Permit Lot. He noted that his responsibility is to the taxpayers of this community and their quality of life.

President Anklowitz advised that he heard the ideas of residents today to include, low cost parking, Vaughn Drive improvements, a parking garage, and partnering with New Jersey Transit. He noted that parking is a key component of the redevelopment project. President Anklowitz thanked everyone for coming out today.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Morgan  
Second: Borek  
VV: All approved (Kleinman absent)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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Sharon L. Young  
Township Clerk  
West Windsor Township