

**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
SENIOR CENTER 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
26 PARK PLACE
VERNON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING**

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmember Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst and Schaefer.

Absent: Councilmember McCoy, Motola, Oliver and Simon.

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Motola (7:03 P.M.), Councilmember McCoy (7:42 P.M.)

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Tim Timberman, Town Engineer, David Gooch, Civil Engineer. Recording Secretary James Krupienski, Technical Assistance Christopher Prue.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joan Lindstron, 332 ½ Vernon Avenue – spoke regarding damage to her driveway and the issue with garbage being left in the construction area.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:04 P.M.

Presentation:

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer, David Gooch, Civil Engineer, and Robert Rakowski, Design Engineer, Jaspal Jutla, Project Engineer, and Vincent D'Aleo, Inspector from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation will be present to discuss Vernon Avenue construction project. (Memorandum from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator and supporting documentation is in the packet.)

Question and answer period

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer introduced members from the state DOT, construction company and town staff who have worked on the project.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer reviewed the timeline of how the project has progressed from planning stage to implementation.

Meeting recessed for 15 minutes at 7:30 P.M. to allow for public review of project plans.

Meeting reconvened at 7:46 P.M.

Councilmember Etre spoke regarding the type of sidewalks and curbing being placed in the construction area. Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that there would be concrete sidewalks with bituminous curbing.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that due to estimates of being over budget a change was made to change from granite curbing to bituminous in late 2005.

Councilmember Etre asked if there was a cost estimate for the installation cost to install granite curbing.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that there are no current estimates but stated that the average cost for a bituminous curbing is \$3 to \$5 per foot versus #30 to \$35 per foot for granite curbing.

Robert Rakowski, Design Engineer stated that the estimated cost would be around \$155,000.00.

Councilmember Etre asked for information regarding cost to install the granite curbing at the next Town Council meeting. He was also concerned with the placement of telephone poles in the center and edge of sidewalks.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that he can assure that no poles will be placed to obstruct any sidewalk.

Councilmember Etre asked if existing driveways would be extended and reconstructed similar to the original owner's driveway.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that the driveway located at 290 Vernon Avenue presently has concrete pavers. Normally when driveways are disturbed on private property they are normally reconstructed only up to the property line as presently constructed.

Councilmember Etre asked the Tim Timberman, Town Engineer and Administration work to reconstruct the driveways in the area to the same style as currently installed.

Councilmember Etre asked about blasting surveys that were conducted in the area.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that blasting surveys were conducted on May 7, 8 & 10, 2007 and 290 Vernon Avenue was inspected on May 10, 2007 internally and externally. Home that were not completed were: 335 – refused inspection, 332 ½, 293, 297, 306 and 311 – did not respond to the request by phone and letters; 306-had inspection completed on May 15, 2007.

Councilmember Herbst stated that she would like to hear from the public.

Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Etre made a motion to open Citizen's Forum. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen's Forum

Lisa Filbrick, 308 Vernon Avenue: asked if mail boxes would be placed on both sides of the roadway for safety. Christopher Clark, Town Administrator spoke with Postmaster and stated that they will allow for placement of mailboxes on both sides of the road.

Arbor Kemp, 305 Vernon Avenue: asked for pre-notification of any chopping to prevent damage to automobiles. Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that Jaspal Jupla, Project Engineer and Vincent D'Aleo, State of CT DOT Inspector will contact the Construction Manager to see that residents are notified.

Greg Thompson, 282 Vernon Avenue: indicated that the proposed roadway in front of his property will be dropping in elevations and would like to see if it can be increased.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that when the state acquires land and extends it normally would continue at the current grade on site. Stated that they will talk with the state to see if the vertical height can be increased.

Susan Garvey, 137 ½ Vernon Avenue: Please to see that sidewalks are being installed on Vernon Avenue.

Frank Guadigino, 290 Vernon Avenue: Would like to have his driveway reconstructed in the same style for the complete distance that it is extended.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer asked staff to work with the state to see if this can be accomplished.

Greg White, 258 Vernon Avenue: Hours of construction begin too early and are disruptive to the neighbors.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer asked staff to speak with the construction company to request changes of hours of work.

Councilmember McCoy felt the state should provide contact information for all persons involved in the project to the homeowners.

Christopher Clark, Town Administrator will send a postcard to homeowners with contact information. Richard Harding, 329 Vernon Avenue: stated that the easement drawings that were presented showed a 6% slope but current drawings show 12% slope.

Individual from the ROW division indicated that at the time of the surveys the drawings were not completed at the time of contact with the homeowner.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer stated that a Master list of contacts will be provided and staff will contact Dufford Construction to avoid blocked driveways for homeowners.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that a Project meeting would be taking place on Thursday, August 30, 2007 and they will be sure to discuss all issues.

Dan ?? , 248 Vernon Avenue: Feels that the Town has not been accommodating regarding the project.

Councilmember Herbst felt it may be possible to make amendable solutions to some of the problems.

Councilmember Campbell asked if homeowners were notified of the blasting schedule.

Vincent D'Aleo, Chief Inspector for DOT: Had pre-blast meeting in May, did pre-inspection of houses affected in area, signage was placed to indicate blasting and homeowners in each area are contacted in each area prior to the blasting.

Councilmember Campbell asked if homeowners will be notified if power is shutoff in the area.

Vincent A'leo stated that the utilities are required to inform homeowners when they are turned off.

Councilmember Campbell asked about the pool damage that had been mentioned and if it had been remedied to the homeowner's satisfaction.

Vincent D'Aleo stated that they had a failure of a sediment fence; the homeowner contacted the contractor to inform about water runoff, who installed a second sediment fence. Informed the homeowner that they must write a letter of damage to the DOT District office which is sent to the contractor's insurance company. Informed council that they may have issues for homeowners during installation of concrete sidewalks that would run through driveways and would suggest alternate parking during their installation.

Councilmember Champagne suggested utilizing the abandoned area of the roadway as alternate parking for the residents during the installation of the concrete sidewalks. Indicated that he had been in the area and saw excessive trash in the work area.

Vincent D'Aleo stated that he has spoken with the contractor regarding the trash issue and have been using calcium chloride to limit the dust in the construction area.

Councilmember Champagne asked about residents that may wish to relocate their existing driveway and a requirement to install a granite apron.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that a granite header is usually required when granite curbing is being installed.

David Gooch, Civil Engineer stated that if a driveway consists of pavers a granite header would be required to prevent the pavers from being removed during winter plowing otherwise a granite header is not required with a standard bituminous driveway.

Councilmember Anderson questioned if the elevation changes were discussed with the surrounding homeowners and asked how an existing fiber optic was being handled in the construction area.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that the utilities have reviewed that plans and have stated no concerns regarding the line.

Councilmember Anderson felt the communication with the homeowners has been poor and would like an update at the next Town Council meeting regarding the status of issues raised during this meeting.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer indicated that he would discuss the driveway configuration issues with the state to see what could be done.

Councilmember Motola felt that more sensitivity needs to be given to the surrounding homeowners.

Bonnie Simanski, 239 Vernon Avenue: Not in favor of sidewalks and would have like to see speed bumps to slow traffic utilizing the road. Also offered the use of her driveway area for the parking of construction equipment and was concerned with the liability of having and maintaining of the sidewalks.

Councilmember Fox thanked the residents for the concerns that they have voiced and for the ability to work with the State and Contractor to address these issues.

Tim Timberman, Town Engineer stated that the project is on their Project Agenda to discuss the winter shutdown that will occur as of December 1, 2007 and that construction would begin again on April 1, 2008.

Councilmember Fox asked if the public would be notified of the shutdown. Staff indicated that they would.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer asked that everyone needs to work together to help to mitigate the issues that have been raised.

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember McCoy made a Motion to Adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Received: September 28, 2007

Approved: October 2, 2007

Vernon Town Council



James Krupienski
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary