

1. Call to Order

The Main Street Project Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at the Chester Meeting House. Liberty Street, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Committee Members in attendance included Michael Joplin, Chuck Mueller, Charlene Janacek, Ed Meehan, Leslie Strauss, John Schroeder, Jeremy Ziemann and John Divis.

3. Review of decisions made of the Chester Wall given the fact that the Board of Fire Commissioners has expressed concerns

Chairman Joplin noted this was a special meeting and the only topic of discussion was the area of the Chester Wall. He indicated Bettie Perreault had contacted him with concerns from the Fire Department and Public Works about the layout of the Chester Wall that had been approved by the Committee at its last meeting.

Several photos were passed around showing existing conditions and other photos that had been “doctored up” of what had been approved at the last meeting.

Chairman Joplin reviewed the parking arrangement in front of the Brewery and the French Hen. There were 6 pull up car spaces with a pedestrian area in front of the Wall. The existing layout has 7 car spaces. One car space was eliminated and put across the street. Chuck Mueller noted the pitch and grade for the handicap space was too much to be a legal space.

Chairman Joplin noted they have opened up a public space in front of the Brewery and the French Hen which has a curb. John Divis noted he was opposed to the curb as this is the only place to put the snow in the winter. He indicated he has been doing this for 20 years. This is the only place to put the snow and then it is taken out. He didn't want to see the Town spend money for the curb and then see it get destroyed by snowplowing.

Ed Meehan noted one thought is to have a rounded curb. If that isn't feasible, is there another option? Bollards aren't really feasible, but there needs to be something so cars don't just keep going.

Chairman Joplin noted the light gray area in the photo is to be the pedestrian area.

He indicated there needs to be some manner to stop a car from going forward. If there is no curb, its a liability to pedestrians in the gray area.

There was considerable discussion about snowplowing, knowing when to stop and backing the plow up over the curb.

Bettie Perreault noted its important to recognize there will be changes in personnel and contractors and they will not be aware there is a lip there. Chuck Mueller noted isn't there a normal idea that there is a curb at the end of a parking space. Bettie Perreault noted when one is plowing 6" of snow in the middle of the night and hasn't been on Main Street before, they will think its a open area to put the snow.

John Divis noted he has another issue with trying to back out of these parking spots, especially with cars parked on the other side. Discussion followed on how people back out of these spots and that they go both ways.

Chairman Joplin asked Mr. Divis what he thought about bollards if they were removed in the winter. Mr. Divis noted he didn't see the point as someone could get hit in the winter as well as the summer.

John Divis asked what the curb material would be. Chuck Mueller noted it would be chamfered edge granite with a 4" reveal.

Bettie Perreault noted there are difficulties with the travel lane and emergency vehicles going through. The whole stretch of road should be looked at. Dick Leighton, Fire Marshal, noted they have to guarantee access to anywhere in the Village. There are delivery trucks parking all along the street and emergency vehicles can't get through.

There was discussion regarding delivery truck time. Charlene Janecek noted limiting delivery truck times will not work in small towns.

John Schroeder noted if the engineer and architect were here they could respond to these questions quickly. Bettie Perreault noted its not the engineer or architect, its the drivers who don't park in the parking spaces properly. John Divis noted big cars always park in the compact car space.

Chuck Mueller noted this proposal has between 14 ½' and 18' to the center of the

travel lane. There was much discussion as to how cars pull in and back out of parking spaces.

Chairman Joplin noted there were several committee members who had concerns about backing out of these parking spaces and given the expertise of Jeff Jacobson and Brian Kent, they convinced us one could get out of there. We are now being asked to design this for those who don't comply with the law.

James Gryzbowski reviewed the grassy green island and that it needs to be a hard surface for plowing.

There was discussion in detail about taking away the 6th space and extending the delivery parking area along the wall.

Constable Craig Lee reviewed the compact car parking, double parking in front of the Pattaconk and delivery truck parking. He noted there is only so much you can do with the parking.

Leslie Strauss noted we are trying to accommodate a very old Village with pedestrians, motorcycles, delivery trucks and small boutiques and it requires compromise. There is no simple answer and we're here to listen to everyone and figure out what is safe.

Ed Meehan reiterated there needs to be some kind of a median to tell drivers where the driving area ends.

Charlie Greeney reviewed the plowing procedure at Whelen's. He noted they have small pieces of equipment to do certain areas.

John Divis reviewed plowing in the area of Maple and Main Streets. They try to get the Village areas open in order to support the businesses and allow them to open.

Chairman Joplin noted Mr. Divis' main concerns were the curb and temporary snow storage areas. The Fire Department's main concern was having it as safe as possible to move through town.

James Gryzbowski noted he had a better understanding of the width of the lanes and was a little more comfortable. The suggestion was made to move the handicap spot.

John Divis also noted something has to be done about the curb and green island area.

Chairman Joplin noted all these issues will be considered and solved -

1. Grassy green island has to be changed to a hard surface for plowing.
2. Controversy of the curb in front of the Brewery and French Hen.
3. Delivery truck and double parking.
4. Relocate handicap spot.

Bettie Perreault asked if the Committee could keep everyone informed of its review and any revised plans so others may provide comments moving forward. Chairman Joplin replied yes.

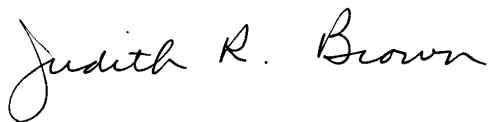
4. Audience of Citizens

Others present included Bettie Perreault, Dick Leighton, Charles Greeney, Jr., Craig Lee, Jim Schaefer, James Gryzbowski, John Brainard, Pete Zanardi, Joe Cohen, Bob Bandize, Susan Wright, Karin Badger and Lauren Gister, some of who provided comments throughout the meeting.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary