

LAND USE MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 9, 2023

Chairman Duffy opened the meeting at 7:00 PM stating this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, by posting the notice to the Express Times and Star Ledger and providing the same to the Town Clerk.

It is the policy of the Town of Phillipsburg Land Use Board not to hear cases after 10:00 PM and no new witnesses after 10:30 PM. Followed by Flag Salute

Mayor Tersigni swore in Councilman Kennedy to The Land Use Board.

Attendance: Mr. Bond, Mr. Hanisak, Mr. Penrose, Mr. Turnbull, Mayor Tersigni, Vice Chairman Zwicker, Chairman Duffy, Mr. Rooney, Mr. Brotzman, Councilman Kennedy

Circulation Plan Element (Part of the Town of Phillipsburg Master Plan) Tim O'Brien opened by letting the Board and Public know that input is needed from the public. This is just the preliminary start of the process. Joe gave the presentation and introduced the components of the plan which include, Pedestrian Circulation (Sidewalks and Trails), Bike Circulation, Parking, Public Transportation, Automobile Transportation. Municipal Circulation Goals and Objectives were discussed for all elements of the plan. Short term and long-term goals were also discussed. Some elements will be beneficial to coordinate between the local municipalities. Bike circulation was to restrict bikes from using sidewalks. Other idea was to coordinate with utilities for safer sidewalks. The plan does not propose bike lane in Phillipsburg, since parking is already a problem. Tim talked about the Truck Study and said that the Master Plan goal is to not include Center Street as a truck route. Town needs to come up with ways to fix the short- and long-term goals. This plan will be redefined with public input.

Recommend any comments will be addressed to the plan. Councilman Kennedy thanked Joe and Tim for walking through all the Plan. He also

thanked reaching out to Senator Steinhart who proposed not using Center Street as a truck Route. Also, thanked VanCleaf for the work put into the plan. David Bond asked what the short term goals are vs. the long term goals. Board can put time on goals. Bernie Rooney feels that bikers need place in Phillipsburg if not they will Go to Easton. Chairman Duffy said that the Board will not be voting on the Plan tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENT: David Morisette thanked Joe and The Land Use Board for working on the plan and for the document that was posted online. He asked if that was a draft of the plan and Chairman Duffy said yes, only a draft. He talked about Roseberry and Center Street in the plan. Attorney Wilhelm said this is a proposed plan. Town Council could do whatever they chose to do. He asked that Center Street not be put into the plan for truck route. Petitions have been sent to council. Nobody on Center Street wants this. Margaret, also said not o use Center Street as a truck route. Bottom of the hill Warren Street and Center will be very dangerous. The School is also located in the area and this will become a safety issue. Stewart Ridley The plan is important, and the town needs good zoning and a commitment to the plan. Think about 22 and ways to cross without it being dangerous which also includes the foot bridge over 22. He also asked a question of how would you get a bike to a bike trail because of the few bike lanes. Attorney Wilhelm said that the board will consider the comments and another public hearing will be in the future.

Circulation Plan Overview will be posted to the Town website.

Suggestions and Concerns can be addressed through Seamless Docs on the website. Also, through Kelly Lefler's town email klefler@phillipsburgnj.org and phone contact 908-454-5500 Ext. 370. Link is also available on the Town Website to review the plan.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Mayor Tersigni and second by Mr. Brotzman All in favor was Yes, no Nays.

Submitted by: Kelly Lefler Land Use Secretary