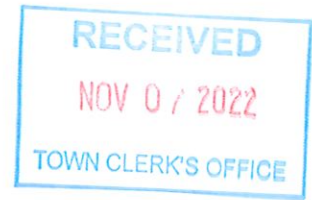


Town of Somers – Planning Commission
Special Meeting Public Hearing Minutes
November 2,2022



7:00pm – Town Hall Auditorium

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

Members Present: Brad Pellissier, Jim MacFeat, Pat Pio. Also present Daniel Parisi, Director of Land Use, Todd Rolland Director of Public Works
Absent: Adam Van Wingerden, Bill Salka

PUBLIC HEARING:

Possible Closure of a section of County Road #17 to #70

Todd Roland Director of Public Works – Applicant – Explained the reasoning or closing this section of road for safety of driving on the road and for the residents. Road is not maintained by the Town. Cost of improving the road is cost prohibited.

Tim Keeney - 1st Selectman– 57 Maple St – Spoke in favor of the closure do to the safety reasons and liability to the Town of Somers.

Al Neuser – 175 County Rd – Spoke against the closure do to pushing speeders down other streets. Likes going up and down the road, due scenic look of the road.

Diane Childs 184 County Rd – Question gate, what will happen during a storm event and power lines are down and no power to the residents on County Rd. How is the utility company from other states come to help?

Todd Roland – Responded that Town Public Works would have keys also the Fire Dept. and Police would have keys to open the gates.

Catherine Tomson – 6 Lance Dr – Concerned about utilities and repairs. In favor

Dave McCollum, Jacob McCollum – 54 Beverly Rd – No opinion

Dave Worthington – 17 County Rd – Spoke in favor – Safety wife almost hit while walking, speeders every day. Trees across the road now 11-2-22. Says the most unsafe road.

Dave Morton – 163 County Rd - Safety of the road, concerned about when they plow the snow to the gate and there is a big pile of snow. Mild winters is ok the snow melts, but in a colder winter the pile of makes an ice block and harder to remove. Need a plan to keep open. Would like an alternative to allow County Rd as scenic to stop speeders. Talks about of GPS sending vehicles up road.

Harold Eastwood – 624 Springfield Rd. – Spoke against wants to keep road open. Chairman spoke about a scenic road and how it is made. County Rd is scenic and no other road. Unimproved road, yes not paved.

Bill Galbraith – 879 Main St – Main St and County Rd, Main St to County Rd the speed is same as Main St. No concern for speed. Signage cannot be seen coming down from Stafford. Why the power thru the woods? Talks about trucks having to turn around in his driveway because they cannot make it up the road. Mixed feeling about closing road.

John Eastwood – 919-923 Main St – Letter read into the record was attached to the agenda. Opposed to the closing of lower section of County Rd. If the road is blocked off he can get to his property because coming off Main St is wetlands. His only access is of County Rd.

Questions why the power could not come off Main St instead of going up County Rd. Eversource would need to be contacted.

Harold Eastwood – Question of keeping first responders out. They will have keys to access.

Brad Pellissier – Planning Commission – Source of POCD, protecting of scenic roads. If we close this road are we moving away from scenic roads. Hazards of going up and down the roads.

There are signs on the road saying no thru road.

Jim MacFeat – Planning Commission – Why couldn't this be like a gated community with electric gates for people that want use the road. Todd says electronic gate would be a problem with maintenance. Todd could give keys to people to go thru the road.

A lot of dead trees most on private land. Town could remove if eminent danger to the Town ROW.

Brad Pellissier – Does not want to lose a scenic road to speeders. Town needs to create more scenic road. If this was not a scenic road they could close it off at a BOS meeting.

Dave Morton – The route cause is the unsafe road and the unsafe driving. How can we stop the vehicles that don't belong on an unimproved road?

Brad Pellissier – Not the easiest decision to close this section.

Diane Childs – Questioning of the building lot. Wondering about putting one gate.

Dave Morton – Question next procedure

Brad Pellissier – When the Commission hears from the public. If there was more that needed to be heard if the Commission wanted more time they could continue the public hearing. If everything was heard the Commission will close the hearing and have discussion on the question, then vote.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

Jim MacFeat made a motion to close the public hearing, Pat Pio seconded all in favor motion passed at 8:08pm

OPENED SPECIAL MEETING: 8:11pm

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE DECISION – Gating of a section of County Road #17 to #70

Jim MacFeat made a motion with conditions of the Town would provide a plan for the snow removal and access for the gates to the community members.

APPROVAL OF 2023 – Meeting Dates: Jim MacFeat made a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Dates, Pat Pio seconded, all in favor motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Pat Pio made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the October 13, 2022, Jim MacFeat seconded, all in favor motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Jim MacFeat made the motion to adjourn, Pat Pio seconded, all in favor, motion passed 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Parisi ****MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED A SUBSEQUENT MEETING****