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**AD HOC REPORT –
POCONO LANE EXCHANGE OF LAND
Reference #7, October 2008**

Chairman Jack Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m on October 16, 2008. In attendance were committee members Mary Teicholz and Tom Saadi, Corporation Counsel Les Pinter, Director of Public Works Antonio Iadarola, Director of Planning ,Dennis Elpern, City Engineer, Farid Khouri, Ex-officio member Warren Levy and property owner Gary Michael.

Chairman Knapp stated the charge of the committee was to consider an exchange of property which would alleviate traffic flow, and safety problems in the area of Pocono Lane / Newtown Road / I-84. Chairman Knapp read a letter from Asst. Corporation Counsel Gottschalk which summarized the proposal. Mr. Pinter explained the solution to the long-standing traffic flow problems would be to open a one-way corridor between Pocono Lane and Mountainview Terrace allowing residents to use the safer signalized intersection to access Newtown Road. The City would acquire property from Pebble Mortgage, LLC to construct a roadway and the City would give to Pebble in exchange a 1,663 sq. ft. triangular parcel of land at the corner of Newtown Road and Pocono Lane. The Planning Commission gave a positive recommendation subject to approvals from Traffic Engineer, the Traffic Authority and Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Iadarola said that the Traffic Engineer has no objection to the property exchange and further proposed the property retain an easement over the triangular piece of property for future road improvements. Mr. Michael of Pebble said he sees no objection to the exchange of property.

Councilwoman Teicholz asked if any/all other options had been exhausted for alleviating the traffic flow problem. Mr. Iadarola said that a very lengthy process took place before coming up with this solution.

Ms. Teicholz asked why the roadway is going to be located right in between two houses, instead of on the other side closer to Newtown Rd. Mr. Iadarola said that was a point of negotiation with the property owner, but it's easy construction, and moving the road to the other side of the house would put the road right in the middle of the property and would render that property practically unusable. Mr. Saadi said this traffic and safety issue has been ongoing for a long time and that the remaining affected home is a reasonable distance from the road easement. Mr. Iadarola said that they would be contacting the homeowner and they could create some sort of soft barrier between the road and their property.

Ms. Teicholz asked if putting the road through the property would change the zoning . Mr. Elpern said no.

Mr. Khouri said they would give the recommendation to the Chief of Police for review.

Councilman Saadi *moved to recommend to the Council : 1).Authorize acquisition of the land between Pocono and Mountainview Terrace, and 2). Authorize the transfer of the municipally owned triangular property abutting Pocono Lane subject to mutually agreeable easement negotiated between the parties and the requisite reports. Seconded by Councilwoman Teicholz. The motion carried unanimously.*

Ms. Teicholz *moved to adjourn at 7:40pm. Seconded by Mr. Saadi. The motion was approved unanimously*

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Knapp, Chairman

Mary Teicholz

Tom Saadi



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PLANNING COMMISSION
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October 16, 2008

To: Mayor Mark Boughton
Members of Common Council

From: Planning Commission

Re: 8-24 Referral/October '08 CC Agenda Item #7 - Exchange of Land for Pocono Lane Traffic Improvements.

The Planning Commission has received a request from the Common Council for a report pursuant to CT General Statutes/Sec 8-24, regarding the above referenced item.

At the October 15, 2008 meeting, the Planning Commission made a motion for a positive recommendation subject to approval of the City Traffic Engineer and Traffic Authority, as well as the submission of plans and documents satisfactory to Corporation Counsel.

Arnold E. Finaldi Jr.
Chairman

AEF/jr

Attachment

c: Engineering Dept.
Director of Public Works
Corporation Counsel