

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, July 27, 2015, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Courtroom Minutes

1 **The Wilton Selectmen** held a special public hearing on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 6:30PM in the
2 Town Hall Courtroom to provide information and address questions and concerns about the
3 proposed traffic flow and parking changes at the Florence Rideout Elementary School, and to
4 render a decision about the plan.

5 Present were Selectman / Chairman Rick Swanson, and Selectmen Bill Condra and Kermit
6 Williams; Dawn Tuomala, Monadnock Survey, Project Engineer for the town, School Board
7 Member Harry Daley, Police Chief Brent Hautanen and Director of Public Works Steve Elliott –
8 each of whom was directly involved in the plan; Acting Clerk Joanna K Eckstrom; Ledger
9 Transcript reporter Ashley Saari; and about two dozen abutters who had been notified / invited
10 to the hearing via certified mail.

11 Chairman Swanson called the hearing to order at 6:30 PM, welcoming all who came out this
12 evening. He stated purpose of hearing and outlined sequence ... presentation by Ms Tuomala
13 (10-15 mins); select-board questions; public input, comments, concerns; close public hearing
14 for select-board discussion; take action on plan - decision or continuation.

15 Attendees were advised that proceedings being recorded; anyone wishing to speak should
16 address the Select-Chair, state name and address for the record. (Persons can stay as long as
17 they wish however, no public input allowed during Selectmen's discussions / deliberations.
18 Input from those directly involved in project OK.

19 On a motion by Mr. Condra, seconded by Mr. Williams, the public hearing was declared open at
20 6:40 PM.

21 Ms. Tuomala presented plan (Powerpoint) of FRES and the flat. Said plan being presented is the
22 product of months of collaboration and compromise between several parties whose goal was
23 to create a safe environment / safe access to FRES for all. Student safety a prime concern. A
24 new access drive for buses only was created in front of the school, facing the field; concerns for
25 'walkers' on Tremont addressed by making that street one way for its whole length; parent
26 drop-off points have been located; new signs and painting to be done to enhance safety. No
27 parking on Livermore Street to be enforced; new parking areas created; Prince Street is to be
28 one way from 7-4; Dawn said efforts were made to enhance parking and public safety.

29 Chief Hautanen said bus traffic vs safety is always an issue; believes that the plan – traffic flow
30 and new parking addresses issues most effectively given the limited space we had to work with.
31 Mr. Elliott agrees with the plan; knows what needs to be done as far as signs, painting, etc. Mr.

TOWN OF WILTON
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32 Daley thanked all for coming out and said he, too, believes that the plan is a good one. He
33 apologized for inconvenience during construction. Ms Tuomala noted that all changes to the
34 site (parking, sidewalks, etc) are being made within the town's right of way and no property is
35 being taken. Parking spaces would be available on Livermore Street (right side) on the park side
36 however, there would be no parking on the left. This opens up line of travel on Livermore and
37 facilitates buses turning into drive in front of school.

38 Chief Hautanen summarized the proposed flow and parking plans as enhancing public safety.

39 Ms Tuomala repeated that everything being proposed is in the town right of way ...

40 Chairman Swanson asked for comment from other Selectmen. Mr. Condra asked how public
41 works job (snow removal) will be impacted; Mr. Elliott said it's always a challenge about where
42 to pile snow but he didn't see major changes – snow will still end up in the park (Flat).

43 Mr Williams asked what is number of spaces available right now on the school property? Per
44 Mr Daley, less than what's needed. People park along streets because no space available in
45 school property. Mr. Daley added that moving the playground enabled there to be more
46 spaces on school property. Mr. Williams feels that overall, very few new spaces would be
47 added with the proposed plan and wondered whether parking changes were worth making

48 Mr Elliott said parking moving onto school property is good idea. Overall rational for increased
49 parking (on and off school property) is for increased staff, events and keeping students safe.
50 Ms Tuomala felt that angled parking gives more spaces and improves safety.

51 Mr. Swanson opened the floor to public questions / comment

52 Mary Fino, K-5, 14 Livermore – currently parks on Livermore Street directly in front of her
53 house. Will she and other owners be able to park in front of their homes? No, not if NO
54 PARKING on left side of Livermore is approved and enforced. If (new) parking on the field side
55 is used, property owners will need to comply with restrictions for those spaces. Chief Hautanen
56 wants to get parking patterns established as soon as possible so that everyone can be trained
57 on how to park.

58 Dan Nelson, K-24, 24 Prince Street – suggested changing traffic direction and parking (for buses)
59 so that when kids get off bus, they don't have to cross in front of bus to get into the school. Ms
60 Tuomala, Chief Hautanen, Mr. Elliott all said various scenarios have been addressed and the
61 proposed is the best solution.

TOWN OF WILTON
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Town Hall Courtroom Minutes

62 Celeste Oberg – K-27, 31 and 33 Prince Street – very concerned about portion of her property
63 (where employees sometimes park) being taken. Operates Tumbleweed Childcare – concerned
64 about her employees, customers and personal use of her property being diminished. Ms.
65 Tuomala confirmed that proposed changes are within the town's right of way, not private
66 property. Peter Oberg said when Tumbleweeds was approved by Planning and Zoning, they
67 were forced to maintain parking in specific areas (on their lot as well as what was allowed on
68 street) – he's very concerned about how proposed changes impact property he's owned since
69 1989. Celeste added that she doesn't believe that there are enough events to warrant new
70 parking arrangements anywhere around the school or park ... people have made do with what's
71 there for years without there being a problem.

72 Violet Blake – K-37, 60 Maple Street – expressed concern about keeping Maple Street end of
73 Tremont Street two way. Would be very inconvenient for the three houses at that part of
74 Tremont to get to Maple Street. Hoped that two-ways could be preserved. Mr. Elliott said that
75 end on Tremont Street is very narrow; if there were to eventually be a sidewalk there, two-way
76 traffic would be next to impossible. Chief Hautanen added that everyone's thoughts and
77 suggestions were considered; the plan isn't perfect, there's no easy solution but this is best that
78 we can do with what we've got.

79 Paul Holland – K-33, 31 Tremont Street – said he can live with the way Livermore and Tremont
80 Street is now: he's gotten used to maneuver cars and trucks onto his property. He has a
81 grandfathered business at the site. Tractor trailers can't use Russell Street to make deliveries
82 so they go to Park Street, take right onto Livermore, then left onto Tremont (heading toward
83 Maple) and then back into his driveway, loading area. Changes to Livermore (and Tremont) will
84 impact his business adversely. Mr. Daley said by changing parking at the playground, they
85 hoped that situation would improve.

86 Virginia Gentes – K-28, 25 Tremont Street – asked about the rocks on the opposite side of road
87 from her house. Was concerned that they'd be removed. Ms Tuomala said rocks would stay;
88 rocks are in-line with town right of way. Mrs. Gentes said that kids play in the street all the
89 time; traffic speeds; people are inattentive to road, pedestrians most of time. Said that corner
90 has always been an accident waiting to happen.

91 Bob Tatro – K-21, 7 Tremont Street – tenant at this three-family home said there is not enough
92 parking on the lot so he and other tenants park along Tremont Street. He has trouble using

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
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Town Hall Courtroom Minutes

93 driveway now (and parking on the street) and proposed (angled in) parking will make situation
94 even worse.

95 Sandy Reid, K-002, 6 Livermore Street – is teacher at FRES; says parking as it stands is adequate
96 – shouldn't be changing for events. She parks in front of her Livermore Street house anyway
97 and would be concerned if forced to find another place to park. Asked about changing the
98 drop-off site. Mr. Daley and Chief said several spots were considered and the one selected is
99 the best and safest available.

100 Melanie Jones, K-32, 27 Tremont Street – tenant – asked whether putting in stop signs will
101 narrow Tremont street. Yes.

102 Mark Weissflog – K-21, 7 Tremont Street (owner) – asked what design standard was used for
103 proposed parking / what is ordinance? Ms Tuomala thought it was 9 x 18, 60 degrees. Mr
104 Weissflog suggested using whatever standard makes it safe for all. He was concerned about
105 pushing all traffic onto Tremont – it's an overload. What is speed limit? Per Chief, it can't be
106 less than 25 mph by statute. Mr Weissflog didn't feel that parking plans should be driven by
107 events.

108 Walter Fredette – K-39, 66 Maple Street – very concerned about making Tremont all one way;
109 impacts his access to his home on Maple Street; also concerned about there being no parking in
110 front of his house. He walks dog near school on Livermore – sidewalk not really needed but
111 area would benefit by being cleaned up.

112 Mr Elliott said area where sidewalk could eventually go is backed by very steep hill; one would
113 need to dig into hill, put retaining wall (4 ft high minimum), but there is room and it could be
114 done.

115 Gail Hernandez, K-003, 8 Livermore Street – has no children but is very concerned about their
116 safety in school zone. She wouldn't be losing her parking but doesn't think event parking is an
117 issue worth considering. Parking on street has been ok.

118 Celeste Oberg – repeated earlier concerns about losing parking for employees; doesn't see
119 benefit of changing anything if overall result yields only 3 spaces.

120 Steve Blanchard, K-26, 42 Maple street (Prince Street corner) – has lived in his property for
121 more than 40 years – no plan better than what is in place now; if it's not broke, why fix?

TOWN OF WILTON
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Town Hall Courtroom Minutes

122 Mark Weissflog asked who pays for these proposed changes? Per Mr Elliott, much of the cost is
123 already budgeted via what was approved in package that came before town meeting. Anything
124 not budgeted will need to be planned for in next years.

125 Dan Nelson –asked about keeping the park / the flat in tact. He added that roads have gotten
126 beat up throughout the project. Mr Elliott and Ms Tuomala confirmed that no changes will be
127 made to the park and that any areas disturbed during construction will be reclaimed as soon as
128 practical.

129 Chairman Swanson took a show hands about who had issue with traffic flow – only two people
130 said they did. On the question of proposed parking, nearly all indicated they had problem.

131 Celeste Oberg and Gail Hernandez repeated their concerns about parking, questioned whether
132 cost and end result (maybe 8 spaces) is really worth it.

133 Mr Daley cited priorities for school opening on September 1 – make it safe, keep or add stop
134 signs, paint crosswalks, side walks, change Tremont to one way' keep buses away from
135 pedestrians and drop off.

136 Tom Brennan – rents space at the Holland property – agrees that putting sidewalk here renders
137 current access to the property useless.

138 On a motion by Mr Condra, seconded by Mr William, the session was closed to public input.
139 The meeting is still open however, Selectmen will discuss amongst themselves (and team) but
140 will not take input from public.

141 Mr Williams said he'd like to look at traffic flow and parking options separately; he needs more
142 info, especially on parking, before he will decide. He wants to explore alternate parking options
143 and to have cost/benefit for each area on plan. He asked Ms Tuomala to confirm that all
144 boundaries are precise – both she and Mr Daley confirmed that they are.

145 Mr Swanson asked if Select board could have more time (to decide on plan). Yes, Daley hoped
146 to have an approved plan so that he could inform parents of new arrangements in the welcome
147 letter the school board would be sending out (before school opens on Sept. 1st).

148 Mr Condra expressed concern that Select board was digressing from what intent of this
149 meeting was ... approve traffic flow and parking at site. His preference was to accept traffic
150 flow and table action on parking.

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, July 27, 2015, 6:30 PM
Town Hall Courtroom Minutes

151 Mr Elliott and Chief Hautanen both stated that posting Livermore Street as NO PARKING on left
152 side of street is critical at this juncture. Per Mr Elliott, final paving will happen in next few
153 weeks.

154 Mr Swanson was inclined to take some action regarding traffic flow however, on a motion by
155 Mr Condra, seconded by Mr Williams, the Selectmen unanimously agreed to continue this
156 hearing to Monday, August 3rd Selectmen's meeting at which about an hour would be needed
157 to discuss parking alternatives and render a decision on traffic flow and parking. Ms Tuomala,
158 Misters Elliot and Daley and Chief Hautanen will talk this week about ways to implement a plan
159 that meets the towns needs and abutters concerns.

160 There being no other business before the selectmen, the hearing / meeting was adjourned at
161 8:50PM.

162 Respectfully submitted,

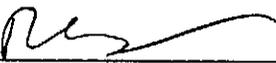
163 Joanna K. Eckstrom, Acting Clerk (transcribed 7/28/15)

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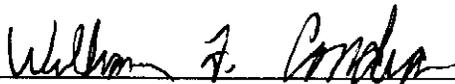
Richard E. Swanson, Chairman



Kermit R. Williams

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William F. Condra

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8-17-15

Date Signed