

A public informational meeting was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on January 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of receiving input from property owners along Tanglewood Drive regarding the installation of street lights.

Supervisor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

Town Board Members Present

Tom Cumm	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Joe Patricke, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer; and the following Town Residents: Heidi Beaudoin, Stephen Cassavant, Blaine Beattie, Patricia Beattie, Arthur S. Walters, John Youker, Bobby Hanson, Lynda Jones, Beth Young, Fred Young, Rick Denué, Donna Denué, Margaret Klick, Peg McDonald, Mary Lou & Mickey Brown, Reed Antis, John Otoupal, Adele Kurtz; Lydia Wheeler, Post Star Reporter; Gregory Aidala, Superintendent of the South Glens Falls School District; and Andrew Hills, Principal of the Tanglewood Elementary School

Supervisor Jenkins welcomed everyone to the public informational meeting and explained the format of the meeting.

Supervisor Jenkins explained that the proposal was to install street lights on existing poles on the east side of Tanglewood Drive at an annual cost of \$5,200.00. A lighting district would not be formed in this case; rather the lights would be installed under a public safety factor.

Supervisor Jenkins reported receiving a telephone call from John Youker. John Youker was present at this meeting so Supervisor Jenkins said he would let him speak for himself. He also received a letter from Michael & Helen Strich in favor of street lights being installed and Supervisor Jenkins read the letter (a copy is on file in the Town Clerk's Office).

Councilwoman LeClair stated that when she used to drive a school bus, Tanglewood Drive was her area. She used to pick up children in the Tanglewood area and transport them to the Tanglewood Elementary School. It was always a concern of hers about the lack of lighting and the lack of adequate shoulders alongside the roadway. There were children bicycling along the roadway and she always feared they would ride out in front of the bus or fall off the bicycle in front of the bus, because there is only loose sand for the shoulders. The shoulders of the roadway and lighting both should to be addressed. She realized both couldn't be addressed at this meeting, but both items should be taken care of.

Councilman Prendergast stated this matter has been discussed more than once and he was sure the board would be discussing it again. This issue was brought to their attention from the school district, but it is not that the board was unaware of it themselves. There is a safety issue in that area. The board wants to make sure the property owners along Tanglewood Drive are aware of the proposal to install street lights and receive input from the property owners, because this proposal will affect them. He said it was mentioned at the last meeting that an engineer should review the proposal to make sure it lights the roadway for safety with the least amount of impact on the property owners.

Councilman Cumm stated that there was a similar situation on Feeder Dam Road a couple of years ago and street lights were installed. He asked the supervisor how many complaints have been received

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about the lights.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that nobody seemed to really notice them. He didn't receive any comments good or bad. The lights do light up the sides of the road, but they don't shine on people's houses and that is the type of lighting that would be installed on Feeder Dam Road. He advised that there was a pedestrian/car accident on Route 9 that resulted in the death of the pedestrian and since, street lights have been installed between Butler Road and Route 197 and they have made it a safer stretch of highway. He thought it was time to look at these issues, receive input from the citizens and make a decision and not wait for a tragedy to occur before something is done.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that it is no question that safety is an issue down there, but he isn't convinced that lighting will correct the safety concerns that we have down there. The crux of the issue is that essentially there is no parking and there are children in the street. He stated that if the children could be seen at night then it is less likely they would be hit by a car, but lighting won't correct the safety issue. We should concentrate our efforts on working with the school district to install either a sidewalk on the school property or off street parking. Years ago the Town talked about installing sidewalks along Tanglewood Drive and the residents in that area were not in favor of that and he didn't think their position has changed at all. We should look at other alternatives and not just lighting.

Interim school superintendent, Gregory Aidala, stated that this issue first came up at a school board of education meeting when a board member raised concerns about safety and the lack of lighting in that area. He said the school district wants to be good neighbors. He does believe it is a safety issue. He drove along Tanglewood Drive on his way to this meeting when it was dark out and lights would help driver's see pedestrians at night. He stated that most of the students are bused to school so that isn't an issue, but there are events at night at the Tanglewood Elementary School and football games are held at night at the Senior High School in the fall. The field lights shine directly down on the field. The school district cannot install lights that are directed toward the street without the lights shining in windows of adjacent houses. Street lights usually shine directly down onto the street. He said the school board hopes the Town Board will address this issue by adding lighting. He has looked at other areas where lighting has been added and has concluded that the lighting has helped and we can never be too safe by providing better conditions. He appreciates the Town Board considering this issue and bringing it before the residents for further discussion.

John Youker of 7 Tanglewood Drive stated that he approaches this proposal as a "knee jerk operation" by the board. He said he isn't aware of any policies that have been set or studies done as to where street lights should be installed in the entire Town of Moreau from a public safety standpoint. He counted 33 street lights on Feeder Dam Road within a one mile stretch. He said that in the entire South Glens Falls area he hasn't been able to find where lights are on every telephone pole. He stated that there are many intersections in the Town where there aren't any street lights at all. He stated there are a lot of residential areas in the Town that don't have any street lights. He stated there are twelve to fifteen athletic events in September and October so that means 350 nights per year the lights will be burning and there are no athletic events. He has lived on Tanglewood Drive for close to 40 years and he has seen an occasional dog walker, some joggers and a couple of children who walk to school in the daylight. He has yet to see anybody walking at night time other than to athletic events. The solution would be for the school district to allow access to their athletic fields through the "Tanglewood corner gate" and people could park in the parking lot at Tanglewood Elementary School. No parking signs could be installed from the school district's property all the rest of the way down Tanglewood Drive. He said that would eliminate cars alongside the road and it would increase public safety. He stated that \$5,200.00 is a lot of money. He stated that there are better solutions and there should be a town-wide policy.

Beth Young from 63 Tanglewood Drive (across the road from the elementary school) stated that there is no question that there is a tremendous need for something in that area, sidewalks or lights. When there

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are sporting events at the school and if you drive onto Tanglewood Drive from Feeder Dam Road you are likely to encounter children sitting in the road. They aren't watching the sporting events. They are walking around the neighborhood. They are disruptive, they destroy property, they play chicken with cars coming down the road and they use vulgar language. The police have been called. Lights may not be the answer, but they would help in the section of Tanglewood Drive where she lives and acknowledged that perhaps lights aren't needed all the way down Tanglewood Drive, she doesn't want to argue with anyone over that. She stated that sidewalks could help in the vicinity of the school property. There are quite a few children who walk to and from school along Tanglewood Drive and bicyclists. There are two crossing guards, one at Feeder Dam Road and one at Oakwood Drive. She stated that there is a huge parking issue with the marathon dance also. It seems like all the games are held at night now. Adults are in the road and on her yard also. She has to pick up garbage off her lawn after a sporting event.

Arthur Walters of 21 Tanglewood Drive stated that since lighting has come into effect for the sporting events it has caused more problems. When the lighting was being proposed by the school district he asked if any thought was given to off-street parking. There is property available for off-street parking for sporting events. Tanglewood Elementary School has room for off-street parking as does the high school. It would eliminate a lot of the problem over pedestrians in the roadway. Lighting may not be needed all the way down Tanglewood Drive. Vehicles don't park all the way down Tanglewood Drive. Most vehicles park along the roadway in the area of the Tanglewood Elementary School and by the high school property. He advocates for off-street parking. He said it should be put back to the school board to decide on how to provide safe parking.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that consideration has been given to eliminating parking along Tanglewood Drive and in front of the elementary school too. It would require a change in the Town's code.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if wasn't it already posted as no parking.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that it is only posted on the west side of the street.

Heidi Beaudoin of 38 Tanglewood Drive stated that people park their vehicles on both sides of Iris Avenue also and they almost block the road and an emergency vehicle could not get through if it had to.

Stephen Cassavant from 36 Tanglewood Drive stated that he was against the installation of eighteen street lights along Tanglewood Drive. It would create more problems without resolving the problem of pedestrian safety and it would create a lot of light pollution. He stated that he noticed the lights on Feeder Dam Road and they do cast quite a lot of light into property owner's yards and 250 watt, high pressure, sodium lights, cast quite a bit of light well off the road. He contacted National Grid and asked them what alternatives they have for lights including full cut-offs rather than standard cut-offs and the person he spoke with said they would be full cut-offs, but they still cast a lot of light. LED lighting is a good five to ten years away he was told. The light intrusion would be coming onto property owner's yards and \$5,264.00 a year adds up very quickly at a time when most communities are trying to cut costs and save money. Lights would encourage drivers to speed up on a road. These problems would be created without solving the problem of pedestrian safety. He acknowledged that pedestrians would be seen easier, but pedestrians would still be in the roadway between the white lines and in the line of traffic. He has seen children walking to school during the day, but the lights on Merritt Road and Feeder Dam Road are off long before the children walk to school and in the afternoon the lights go off around 5:20 p.m. and children are home by then. There are only a handful of games at night time and people could be encouraged to park in the parking lot at the Tanglewood Elementary School or the high school and vehicle parking shouldn't be encouraged all the way down Tanglewood Drive by installing lights the full length of Tanglewood Drive. He walked Tanglewood Drive this past weekend and knocked on some of his neighbors doors and asked them how they feel about this proposal. Some people felt that strategically installing some lights may be helpful. Property owners in the vicinity of Jerome and Tanglewood felt that a street light at that intersection would be helpful and he concurred. He talked to people across from the

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school who felt that a couple of lights strategically placed from the Tanglewood Elementary School parking lot to the high school field, if they weren't too intrusive, would go a long way to increasing pedestrian safety on game nights. He stated that installing eighteen lights all the way along Tanglewood Drive was a waste of money and not necessary and he doesn't recommend it. He suggested they consider a more thoughtful process of where a few lights could be placed, but pedestrians will still be in the roadway even with lights.

Heidi Beaudoin from 38 Tanglewood Drive said it was a waste of money. She lives across from the high school and the field lights shine in her bedroom window and keep her awake. There are times when she has to get up for work at 1:00 a.m. and she is unable to sleep, because of the lights. The whole street is already lit up and why more street lights are needed is beyond her. Street lights would encourage more people to park their vehicles along the roadway. People should park their vehicles in the school parking lots, but she said that people are lazy and they want to park right outside the gate and walk to the bleachers. People turn their vehicles around in her driveway and children play in the driveways and someone is going to get hit and this is during daylight hours. She wished parking would be restricted more. Street lights aren't going to resolve the issue. There aren't that many people who walk at night in her area and if they do, they carry flashlights. Installing lights for sporting events is a waste of money.

Mary Lou Brown who lives at 1 Tanglewood Drive at the corner of Tanglewood Drive and Nolan Road stated that a street light is needed at that corner. There are children who hang out at that corner often at night time.

Patricia Beattie of 24 Tanglewood Drive stated she is opposed to street lights. The lights along Feeder Dam Road are utilitarian and very bright and they light up the road and not the side of the road where pedestrians traverse. She could understand a need for some low, decorative lighting like the lights along Warren Street or Pine Valley Drive just enough for a pedestrian to be safe.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Superintendent Aidala if the school board has considered a consult with a lighting engineer. He stated that the field lights are very close to the road and very closely spaced and it may be possible to add some supplemental low lighting off of those that would only be on during sporting events that don't shine beyond the road.

Superintendent Aidala stated he didn't think that the school board had considered that, but the lights would have to shine down onto the roadway, but also be higher than the bleachers and shine down. He said they are in the midst of working with the New York Power Authority on energy conservation so they could ask about this. He would raise this question and follow up on it.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Superintendent Aidala if there is adequate parking for the events.

Superintendent Aidala replied that there is a parking lot between the high school and the athletic field. The problem is that some people don't want to walk that distance. They want to park in the closest spot and that is along Tanglewood Drive. Depending on the sporting event and who the opponent is, dictates how many cars there would be and the size of the crowd.

A resident stated that even if parking is restricted along Tanglewood Drive and vehicles are parked in the Tanglewood Elementary School parking lot, that isn't going to alleviate the problem of pedestrians in the road at night when they walk from the Tanglewood Elementary School to the high school and the children who leave the sporting event to go wherever they are going. Somebody still would have to control the crowd.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the board has considered a walk area from the Tanglewood Elementary School entrance down Tanglewood Drive to a point opposite the entrance to the athletic field at the high school. They could widen the shoulder of the roadway perhaps. The parking structure would have to be

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changed and prohibit parking where we don't want it. It is going to be a tough battle. There are no parking signs from the beginning of the athletic fields all the way to Feeder Dam Road, but vehicles are parked along Tanglewood Drive before that point. These are issues the board is looking into besides lighting. The input from the residents is helpful.

Rick Denu from 34 Tanglewood Drive stated there are vehicles parked on the school side of Tanglewood and all the way down to Pinevalley Drive and it is farther to walk from there to the athletic field on the high school property than from the Tanglewood Elementary School parking lot. There isn't any problem with having enough parking on the school's property. People want to go in the back gate and go in for free. Several times the school has put up caution tape to stop people from going in the south gate to go up to the main gate and he picks up most of it from his front yard the next morning. At night after a sporting event, car after car drives across his front yard to turn around and their lights shine in his windows and he picks up their garbage from his yard after every game. There are times when there are two or three sporting events at night and it adds up to a lot of traffic. He called the building inspector and inquired about installing a fence and he was told that a fence would have to be installed at least 25 feet from the center line, which would be 13 feet onto his property so that wouldn't work. He suggested the school district be made to do something about the parking and they should make people park in the Tanglewood Elementary School parking lot and the high school parking lot.

Councilman Cumm stated that there have been no parking signs along Jan Avenue for about 30 or 40 years and enforcement has been difficult. People have pulled the signs right out of the ground and thrown them away. Other than having police on Tanglewood and Iris and every other corner continually, it is going to be difficult to prevent parking along Tanglewood Drive.

Brief discussion followed.

Supervisor Jenkins thanked everyone for coming and for their input. He advised that the Town Board hasn't made a decision yet.

Councilwoman LeClair asked everyone to come back as the board moves forward, the board wants to hear what the public has to say.

A motion was made by Councilman Cumm and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Cumm	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Yes
Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk

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