

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town Hall

12/3/86

8:00 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Holbrook
Councilmen Carey, Nowicki, Maloney,
Co. Lettre - absent
Patricia Sheridan - Town Clerk

Supervisor declared the Town Board Meeting open amending official map and eliminating the cut off from Route 303 to Casper Hill Road, Valley Cottage.

The Town Clerk read notice calling the Special Town Board meeting and testified as to proper posting and publication.

Supervisor Holbrook explained the purpose of the meeting and explained the State would bow to the wishes of the Town. We then decided that before we could do anything a public hearing would have to be held. At this point we have no preconceived notion as to what should or should not take place. We are open to suggestions and comment. We intend to take this under advisement and not take any action tonight. If this would go ahead the proposal would prevent people from going up Casper Hill Road from 303; not coming down Casper Hill Road. There is a proposal that has gone forward to put a light at the intersection of New Lake Road and Kings Highway and will be installed either in February or March of 1987. We have been concerned about the traffic. However this particular suggestion can only be done by a public hearing and by a Town Board action after a public hearing. I have a recommendation by the Traffic Advisory Board of the Town of Clarkstown which indicates their disapproval of this proposal. It is dated December 2, 1986 and he read as follows:

"Gentlemen:

As it concerns the amendment to the official map to eliminate the cut-off from Route 303 to Casper Hill Road, Valley Cottage, we wish to express our opposition to such an amendment.

At our meeting of March 10, 1986, this Board reviewed a printout of accidents from 1982 to the present and which involved the length of Casper Hill Road and the intersections on Casper Hill Road.

They revealed that there were fewer accidents at Rte. 303 and Casper Hill Rd. than at Storm Road and Casper Hill Road which has a traffic control (light) signal. There were three (3) accidents on the length of Casper Hill Road since 1982.

Conclusion: There were more accidents, with and without injuries at the two intersections controlled by traffic signals than at Rte. 303 and Casper Hill Road.

These comments and conclusions were forwarded to Supervisor C. Holbrook.

We believe that the crossover at Rte. 303 and Casper Hill Road not be closed. To close it would only increase the hazardous movements at Storms Road and Casper Hill Road.

Yours truly

/s/ Norman B. Peachey, L.S.
Chairman

*from Clarkstown Police
Accident computer data

NBP:lp"

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The Supervisor explained that the Planning Board was taking this under advisement tonight and they would have a recommendation to the Town Board. People would be permitted to forward letters to my office on this issue and the Board would tread very cautiously before they do anything in this regard.

Supervisor asked if there was anyone wishing to speak either positive or negative in this regard. He asked that they speak for three minutes or as briefly as possible and that they speak only once.

Appearance: Alec Rosensweig
OPPOSED Congers, NY

He said he was representing the Congers Civic Association as well as himself and that the Civic Assoc. had voted to leave the road open. Closing would only relocate traffic to other roads. People should be stopped shortcutting through Casper Hill Road. He recommended assigning additional policemen and posting signs.

Appearance: John Cain
Opposed S. Harrison Avenue
Congers

He explained in detail the road conditions and mileage from the Thruway to his home. In using Casper Hill Road, I can be home to Congers in 7-9 minutes. However by using Lake Road, it takes me 17-20 minutes.

Appearance: Dick Court
Opposed Casper Hill Road
Valley Cottage

He said to leave the road open but stop speeding traffic. He advocated making the road less attractive by instituting a 15 mile speed limit and additional police.

Appearance: Marilyn Schrouder
In Favor Valley Cottage

Mrs. Schrouder was also speaking for the Dickensons. She spoke extensively in favor of installing the barrier on Route 303. She said the New York State Department of Transportation had recommended the median on Route 303 and Casper Hill Road and she submitted a petition with 259 signatures in favor. Mrs. Schrouder's comments and attachment presented to the Board are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Appearance: Vincent Boniface
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

He said that if Casper Hill was closed it would force traffic on to Storms Road. He said that the first third of Casper Hill is vacant land while Storms Road is lined with homes and there are many more accidents on Storms Road. Mr. Boniface submitted photographs. The red being Storms Road westbound and the blue being Storms Road eastbound. Closing Casper Hill will do nothing for Kings Highway. You will just be creating a problem for the next intersection. He said make the road less attractive with signs, lights, and speed bumps. The photographs are on file in the Town Clerk's Office

Appearance: Valerie Salerno
In Favor Kings Highway
Valley Cottage

She said she did not believe Storms Road would get all the traffic. Something has to be done to alleviate the accidents on Kings Highway.

Appearance: Denise Boniface
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

She said that she is a homemaker and she is at home to see what happens when Casper Hill Road is closed because of ice and people are forced to go on to Storms Road and that this is unfair.

Appearance: Mr. Wertheimer
Opposed Congers

He said that it is an injustice to close roads and to close off Casper Hill will only create greater problems.

Appearance: Gloria Maider
In Favor Valley Cottage

Kings Highway is a dangerous road and the Board should close it temporarily and see what happens.

Appearance: Felicia Bruggano
Opposed 411C Storms Road
Valley Cottage

She said please do not close Casper Hill Road. Make Casper Hill and Storms Road fifteen miles-an-hour speed limit.

Appearance: Oneida Barish
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

She said her house is the first house on the right on Storms Road and the Town should not close Casper Hill. They should look at the overall problem because it is a Town problem.

Appearance: Ronnie Ymbary
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

She spoke about the traffic backup from Lake Road to Storms Road and how dangerous Storms Road is and the speeding and signs that are continuously knocked down and the bad conditions when the road is iced over.

Appearance: Donna Brophy
In Favor Kings Highway
Valley Cottage

She said that this solution offered by the State was the safest solution and that it would deal with the volume of traffic that was creating the problem.

Appearance: Otto Stern
Opposed Valley Cottage

He said that he has been a resident of Valley Cottage for twenty-two years. He is a member of the volunteer fire and auxillary police and closing the road would cause a safety problem. He said that there are only eight homes on Casper Hill Road and 500-800 homes are north of Casper Hill Road and we need access roads for the ambulance, fire, and police services there. Forcing the traffic north is wrong. It is already horrendous there.

Appearance: Chris Sukus
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

She said that putting up a divider was the cheapest way to cope with the problem. She suggested putting up traffic lights. She said that there should be an overview of the traffic problems in the area.

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Supervisor Holbrook said that the State would not put up the barrier unless asked. The Snake Hill Bridge was due to be completed in the spring of 1987.

Appeared: Herbert Barrish
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

He said that he was the first house on the right and that people will take the shortest route and they will use Storms Road if Casper Hill Road is closed and that put his family in jeopardy.

Appeared: Ray Ambrose
In Favor Kings Highway
Valley Cottage

He suggested putting a "NO LEFT HAND TURN" light at Storms Road.

Appearance: Julie Kuzo
In Favor Kings Highway
Valley Cottage

She said she was in favor of closing Casper Hill Road.

Appearance: Frank Saccaro
Opposed Congers, NY

He said to install a left hand lane turn with a light or to limit left hand lane turns between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. but not to close the road.

Appearance: Nancy Biederman
In Favor 389A Kings Highway
Valley Cottage

She said there had been a problem on Kings Highway for years and they finally got a traffic light. She said that the speeding did slow down. She said that Casper Hill Road is too narrow to be a two lane street and that Storms Road is too dangerous to be used.

Appearance: Richard Tweedy
In Favor Kings Highway
Valley Cottage, NY

He said that he stopped using Casper Hill Road and Storms Road is too dangerous. He uses Lake Road. He said try and see what the impact is of closing Casper Hill.

Appearance: Charles Casmaski
In Favor Valley Cottage

He said Casper Hill is too dangerous.

Appearance: Charles Olrich
In Favor 402 Casper Hill Road
Valley Cottage

He said that there is poor visibility and that the median is usually overgrown with grass or piled high with snow causing obstructions. You can't see cars going south when you try to make the turn and the cars are lined up two deep. He presented photos of a car and a truck sliding backwards.

Appearance: Aaron Manley
Opposed Storms Road
Valley Cottage

He spoke about the difficult conditions at the intersection of Storms Road and the Valley Cottage Shopping Center and he questioned the traffic study flow. He said they had sympathy for the people on Kings Highway and that his son had been hit while standing on the side of Kings Highway.

OPPOSED: Ruth D. Berkley
Laura Schuster
Valley Cottage

There is a letter on file in the Town Clerk's office in opposition to closing the road.

Petitions opposed to the closing of the Northbound Route 303 entrance to Casper Hill Road on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Holbrook said that the Town Board has been concerned about traffic in this area for a long time and there are a couple of things that are going to happen regardless of the Public Hearing tonight; one of which will be the installation of the traffic light at the intersection of New Lake Road. In addition, as a result of the problems of traffic, a lot of people touched upon that tonight, is that of enforcement. It is true that you can't cover the whole Town with one radar patrol. We have an additional full time patrol next year which will be able to commit more time to enforcement which probably is the greatest deterrent to the types of traffic and speed problems that exist on any road not just Kings Highway.

A third thing that the Town Board members can commit to tonight is to ask our Traffic Consultant, our engineer, Mr. Lampert to do a study of the repairing of the signs on Storms Road which has been mentioned tonight to be in disrepair due to the numerous accidents.

In regard to the Public Hearing tonight, the Town Board will take this information under advisement. We have the Planning Board recommendation yet to come and the Town Board will make a decision sometime in the near future. We will let people know before the Town Board is prepared to make that decision. Either by release in the paper or if anyone wants to contact my office. We can inform the people whose address we have by mail. Nothing will be done surreptitiously. Those people who are not present tonight and would like to send a letter, the Town Board will be willing to look at those.

The State has promised in the Spring of 1987 to begin the work on the Snake Hill Bridge. We do know that the State is looking at 303. We know is the most dangerous section of 303 is from the Storms Road intersection down to where they did the improvements there. It's dark. It's narrow and there are a number of problems and they are looking at that.

RESOLUTION NO. (1182-1986) SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING WITH
RESPECT TO ROCKLAND COUNTY
CENTER FOR PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED, INC. ON DEC. 31,
1986 AND REFERRING IT TO TOWN
AND COUNTY PLANNING BOARDS.

Co. Maloney offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Center for the Physically Handicapped, Inc., had previously petitioned the Town of Clarkstown for a Special Permit for the purpose of operating an Intermediate Care Facility on Camp Jawonio property located at 260 Little Tor Road North, New City, New York, and

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RESOLUTION NO. (1182-1986) Continued

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held on December 10, 1985 at 8:20 P.M., pursuant to Section 106-14B of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Clarkstown, which considered said application as an application for a Special Permit to operate an Agency Community Residence, and

WHEREAS, Special Findings and a resolution granting three Special Permits was made on December 16, 1985, and

WHEREAS, the Building Inspection of the Town of Clarkstown has determined that the subject Special Permit should have been issued pursuant to the authority contained in Section 106-10A, Table 4, Column 3, Note B2, and the applicant has requested modification of the Special Permit previously issued;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that a further public hearing on the requested modification shall be held pursuant to said Ordinance at the Auditorium of the Clarkstown Town Hall, 10 Maple Avenue, New City, New York, on December 31, 1986 at 12:05 P.M., and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed special permit shall be referred to the Clarkstown Planning Board for report pursuant to Section 106-32 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Clarkstown and to the Rockland County Planning Board, and other municipalities and governmental bodies as required by Sections 239-1 and 239-m of the General Municipal Law and other applicable provisions of law, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, for the purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the Town Board determines that it shall act as lead agency and the Planning Consultant, Robert Geneslaw, is hereby authorized and directed to act as agent for the Town Board with respect to SEQRA review, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Attorney prepare notice of such statutory hearing and that the Town Clerk cause the same to be published in the official newspaper of the Town as aforesaid and file proof thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Co. Nowicki

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Councilman Carey.....Yes
Councilman Maloney.....Yes
Councilman Nowicki.....Yes
Supervisor Holbrook.....Yes

There being no one further wishing to be heard, on motion of Councilman Carey, seconded by Councilman Maloney and unanimously adopted, the Special Town Board Meeting was closed, time: 9:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



PATRICIA SHERIDAN
Town Clerk