

**BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY
PLANNING-ZONING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of West Cape May Planning-Zoning Board, held at the Municipal Building, 732 Broadway, was called to order by Chairman Mulligan at 7:00 PM. After reading the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 he led all present in the flag salute.

ROLL CALL:

Members:

Doris Jacobsen	present	Kevin O’Neill	present
Art Joblin	present	Diane Rea	absent
Pam Kaithern	present	Carole Sabo	present
Mark Kulkowitz	absent	Alternates:	
Barbara Lamb	absent	TJ Belasco	absent
Paul Mulligan	present	Lisa Roselli	present

Also Present: Brock Russell, Esq., Board Solicitor
Ray Roberts, Board Engineer
Theresa Enteadó, Board Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT: was reviewed and approved by the Board by Resolution 0003-16 on motion by Art Joblin, seconded by Carol Sabo, and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

MINUTES: On motion of Doris Jacobsen, seconded by Carol Sabo, the minutes of January 12, 2016 Reorganization Meeting, together with the January 12, 2016 Closed Session minutes, were approved on roll call vote unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

0002-16 Correcting Resolution No. 0019-15

On motion of Lisa Roselli, seconded by Doris Jacobsen, the above reference resolution was approved on roll call vote unanimously.

APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Alfred Savio, Superintendent of WCM Elementary School, came before the board for an informal hearing. Mr. Savio indicated that he spoke to Mr. Roach, the Borough’s Zoning Officer, and that Mr. Roach advised him to request an informal hearing to get insight and advice from the Board.

Mr. Savio explained that he, and the School Board were looking to improve safety around the school. He said the school is in the middle of Fifth Avenue and Moore Street and that this causes problems with students being dropped off on the opposite side of the road, and then the students cross the road, sometimes without looking, and sometimes traffic is moving faster than the 25 MPH speed limit. Mr. Savio expressed the fact that the same thing happens on Columbia when

parents make the right onto Moore and park on the opposite side. He also explained that the children currently enter the building through individual classroom doors. Mr. Savio summarized that they want to utilize one main entrance and to create a one way drop off zone so all vehicles would have to enter and drop off on one side only. They would also like to construct a parking lot for employees using the triangle of space by Fifth and Moore. By taking these steps they are hoping to accomplish no street drop offs.

Chairman Mulligan pointed out that according to the arrows on the picture that Mr. Savio provided, the driver's side of the car would be on the side of the drop off site, and unless the children that were being dropped off sat behind the driver, the children would still exit traffic side. Mr. Savio agreed this was a valid point but indicated that in order to have it the other way, meaning Fifth toward Moore, then there would be nowhere for parents to go who were coming up Moore, that they would have to drive all the way around Columbia in order to drop kids off in the right direction. He again expressed safety concerns, citing examples of close calls with cars speeding down Columbia to make a right onto Moore to drop kids off.

Art Joblin, asked for clarity on the single drop off area. He asked if there would be anything to prevent parents and children from not using the main entrance. Mr. Savio said there would not be any method to stop parents from dropping off the old way and that parents actually prefer the old way because they can see their children entering the classrooms and they can also see that the teachers are there to receive them. Carol Sabo and Art Joblin both suggested putting a teacher or attendant at the main entrance in order to greet the children at drop off time.

Chairman Mulligan noted that the main entrance wouldn't be by the drop off section and wondered if parents would be agreeable to this. Art Joblin also inquired if parents would prefer not having the line of sight over the danger of getting out and crossing a street during the heavy traffic of drop off time. Pam Kaithern wanted to bring up this question as well, she stated that in her experience you will always have some protective parents who want to walk their children to the door. She also wondered if the school would consider having the faculty not park on the same side of the street as the school for a period of time in order to see if it would improve the situation before going to the expense of building the parking lot. Mrs. Kaithern also suggested that the school inform the parents and get their feedback as well. Ray Roberts offered his opinion, that it is the responsibility of the parents to make sure their children get dropped off safely and not the school's, and wondered if the school wanted this liability. The Board agreed that baby steps would be the best way to start, it would save the expenses, in the event the changes wouldn't prevent the speeding and other drop off issues from happening. Mr. Savio agreed this would be a good place to start. He also inquired about the status of Ordinance 493.15. Mrs. Kaithern advised that she would have the appropriate commissioner and department look into the items identified for improvement in the Ordinance and move forward accordingly.

Solicitor Brock Russell reminded everyone that if the school were to present an application, it would only be a courtesy application because the Board has no jurisdiction over the school.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: No comments

When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM on motion of Pam Kaithern seconded by Carol Sabo and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Enteadó
Board Secretary