

**xBOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
May 12, 2022**

APPROVED 7/28/22

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Open Public Meetings Law Statement:

This meeting, which conforms with the Open Public Meetings Law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a **Regular** Public Meeting of the Planning Board.

Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Jaymee Hodges, Chairman
Dan Olivier, Vice-Chairman
Mayor Raymond Arroyo
Christopher Montana, Councilmember
William Martin (departed 8:45)
Keith Doell
Beth Staples, Alt. #1
Kristy Dougherty, Alt. #2

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Randall, Esq., Board Attorney
Ed Snieckus, Burgis Associates, Board Planner
Louis Raimondi, Board Engineer

ABSENT: Anthony Zorovich (excused absence)
Ann Costello (excused absence)
Yash Risbud (excused absence)

Moment of Silence

The Board Members had a moment of silence and reflection for the late David L. Rutherford, Esq., Attorney for the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of Westwood, with heavy hearts, condolences and gratitude.

Swearing in of new alternate member: Chairman Hodges announced that former Alternate #1 Board Member Lauren Letizia had been reassigned to the Zoning Board of adjustment. Beth Staples was appointed as Alternate #1 and was sworn in by Mayor Arroyo. The Board welcomed Beth Staples to the dais.

4. OPEN TO PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

A motion to open to public was made by Dan Olivier, seconded by William Martin, and carried.

Westwood Bicycle Infrastructure Plan - Condensed Summary - by Justin Maleo - Justin Maleo, 494 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood came forward and was sworn in. Mr. Snieckus gave an overview of the study that Mr. Maleo submitted to the Board. The document is very lengthy, and he was impressed with the document and the detail. This is presented as ideas and recommendations for the Board to consider and per the Master Plan, contains circulation methods, including bike paths in the downtown. Mr. Maleo discussed his study and the latest alterations that were added since his last submittal. He reviewed the several recommendations. Chairman Hodges commented it was extremely well-done, he put much time into it, and it looks professional. Mr. Snieckus commented he made references to credible sources, substantiated by fact. Some items may be more difficult to implement than others. He noted the cycling track that Mr. Maleo referenced as a suggestion for Westwood Avenue, which calls for a raised path, but that would be difficult. Many other items noted were more practical. Schematic mapping was done, establishing commonality. Mr. Maleo also looked at a ten-minute walk to the train station, grades of roads, bike racks in the downtown area, safe routes to school.

Questions from the Board followed. Dan Olivier asked if any studies were done in high pedestrian traffic areas, expressing concern about potential accidents. Mr. Maleo noted there could be a study, but he had not looked into it. Councilmember Montana complimented him for a big picture plan that can be modified and customized and asked if he has seen any adjacent communities in Bergen County adopting this that can serve as a model. Mr. Maleo said he did not. Dan Olivier commented about the bike lanes that Ridgewood has. William Martin commented bollards can be installed and made to look very attractive and asked if this document could be attached as an appendix to the Master Plan. Mr. Snieckus indicated it could be reviewed. Chairman Hodges commented River Vale has bike racks in the town. Mayor Arroyo commented he did not think offering members of the public options to submit suggestions to be voted into the Master Plan was a good idea. The Board could take recommendations, do the proper vetting and use parts of it if

appropriate. The logistics and regulations on busy, dense areas make this a little difficult in certain areas. Kristy Dougherty thanked Mr. Maleo and commented this will assist in connecting with parts of the Master Plan, but expressed concern about safety while cycling. She discussed living and cycling in Philadelphia as reference. Keith Doell commented safety issues are a reason to make changes for the better good and specifically spoke about children going to school in the morning with chaotic vehicular traffic, k-turns, and lack of sidewalks on certain roads. Beth Staples commented she takes side roads when she bikes, but with dedicated bike lanes we may run out of road footage. River Vale put up biking path signage. Chairman Hodges commented some of the difficulty here is that Westwood is 128 years old, so the infrastructure and street widths are narrow. It is important to obtain the street widths and bicycle lanes, which will vary, and see what is left for vehicular traffic. This would have to be studied. Where there is ample property, the bike paths can be placed. We need to start to vet this and see what we could do. He likes the bollard idea. This would have to be figured out in the CBD/SPE Zone, with a concern about ADA compliance. Mayor Arroyo commented the kids would have to be made aware and educated about this rather than just leaving their bikes in front of Starbucks as is done now. The Board thanked Mr. Maleo and would begin their review.

There were no further questions or comments regarding same and no further members of the public. The matter was closed to the public on motion of Dan Olivier, with second by William Martin and carried.

5. MINUTES: The Minutes of the **4/28/22** meeting were approved on motion made by William Martin, seconded by Dan Olivier, and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Updated Memo from Ed Snieckus, Burgis Associates, RE: Post Pandemic Outdoor Café Regulation Review (last revised 2/25/22) Final copy - recommendation to Governing Body - distributed;

7. RESOLUTIONS:

1. 400 Old Hook Owner, LLC - 400 Old Hook Road - Site Plan/ Signage - Board Attorney Randall read the Resolution of Approval into the record. A motion for approval was made by William Martin and seconded by Dan Olivier. There were no further questions

comments or discussions. On roll call vote, Dan Olivier, William Martin, Councilmember Montana, Mayor Arroyo, and Jaymee Hodges voted yes.

8. PENDING NEW BUSINESS: None

9. VARIANCES, SUBDIVISIONS AND/OR SITE PLANS:
SWEARING IN OF BOARD PROFESSIONALS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. DISCUSSION:

1. Adoption of Procedural Rules & By-Laws - Noted for approval - Carried to the next meeting;

There were no further questions, comments or discussions and none from the public.

11. ADJOURNMENT - On motions, made seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY R. VERDUCCI, Paralegal
Planning Board Secretary