



**LAKE COMO BOROUGH
1740 MAIN STREET
LAKE COMO, NJ 07719
(732) 681-3232
MINUTES**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
7:30 PM WORKSHOP**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Report on Traffic Study
 - Mayor Higgins stated that the Council received a traffic study report from the Borough Engineers stemming from the discussion the Council had in May and they were given 2 weeks to review the report. Before any changes were made regarding parking or traffic, the Council agreed it was imperative to have the study done.
 - Councilwoman Albala-Doyle stated she read it over and her biggest concern is the removal of parking which would affect businesses, families and residents of side streets. Councilwoman Albala-Doyle stated she doesn't mind navigating the one-way streets but doesn't want to see the removal of parking and stated she is curious of the effects of the removal of parking on the side streets in the summer versus year-round.
 - Councilman Ventrice stated that he shares the same concerns on removing parking. One thing that was a surprise is that 18th Avenue isn't eligible for speed bumps. Councilman Ventrice questioned if the recommendations would work out if we did some but not all and what the ramifications would be.
 - Councilman D'Antuono stated that he feels the reported was well done and insightful. Lake Como's roads are not as wide as others, so he wasn't surprised by the data of the number of incidents involving moving vs stationary vehicles. It's either very narrow roads with 2-way traffic or one-way roads with speeding. Councilman D'Antuono stated he hopes we are able to find a way around the 18th Avenue speed bump issue and he is gas the town is looking into this further.
 - Councilwoman Scull stated she echoes a lot of what was already said and she is reading the report that the recommendations are for year round changes. It seems to her, like the vast majority of

issues are from 18th Avenue and fears the removal of parking will only increase issues and speeding.

- Councilman Witte questioned the number of accidents in the summer versus the off season and stated that emergency vehicles are getting bigger and it is hard to navigate the narrow roads in town and eliminating parking would help. Councilman Witte recommends removing parking on 18th Avenue year-round and making Newman Street one-way.
- Councilman DeMauro thought the report is thorough and feels that Belmar's one-way streets hamper Lake Como and feels that Newman Street is absolutely a problem area.
- Chief Scott stated that she sees everyone's views and anything that is done will upset someone. She felt that it was a very thorough report and there are very good suggestions that were made and she too, is surprised about 18th Avenue being considered ineligible for a speed bump.
 - Mayor Higgins responded that he is optimistic about getting an exemption.
- Councilwoman Albala-Doyle reiterated that the removal of parking is a problem on 18th Avenue, and it just moves the problem to the side streets, and it becomes an issue for those residents.
- Mayor Higgins stated he was not surprised by what was in the report. It is time Lake Como does something, whether that is one-way streets, removal of parking, traffic calming speed humps or stop signs. There also needs to be a serious discussion about the addition of a traffic light at 17th Avenue and Main Street. Mayor Higgins stated that if the Council moves to removing parking, we need to think of creative ways to make new parking. One way to do that is to look at prohibiting commercial vehicles from parking on the street overnight, which is something the Borough has struggled with for years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WORKSHOP ITEMS

- Allison Krilla of Bradley Terrace came before the Council and stated she appreciated the traffic study being done and said Bradley Terrace is a big issue as it is a major thoroughfare with vehicles speeding around the corners. There isn't one perfect solution that will make everyone happy but making New Bedford Road one-way would alleviate the issues on Bradley Terrace.

- Bob Rumsby of 18th Avenue thanked everyone for their comments, and he is surprised by the seasonality of the report. The busy season is only 100 days of the year and Mr. Rumsby was surprised there wasn't more meat to the report. It counted volume but lacked the speed and weight of the vehicles which is necessary information to give a good idea of the 18th Avenue situation. Mr. Rumsby stated that cars have a tendency to speed when the parking is eliminated. Mr. Rumsby suggested if that if the town isn't successful with the DOT Commissioner, look into an off-season traffic count.
- Mike Ryan of E Street asked if there will be any impact to the evacuation route and thanked the Council for their work and the tough decisions they will have to make.
- Mayor Higgins reported that there is a lot to unpack and whatever the Council decides must be comprehensive and make step-by-step decisions to make it happen. In the meantime, we can increase signage with electronic speed signs being installed. The Council will be looking into either one-way streets or removing parking, not both. Mayor Higgins asked the Council what their non-negotiable items are.
 - o Councilwoman Scull stated she wants to keep 17th Avenue two-way in the off-season.
 - o Councilman D'Antuono stated he wants to take steps to control speeding.
 - o Councilman Ventrice stated he does not want parking removed.
 - o Councilman Witte stated he wants to see Newman Street one-way now and discuss the rest before summer.
 - o Councilwoman Albala-Doyle wants to see safety more of a concern than convenience.
- Mayor Higgins stated he will assign a committee for his and workshop this discussion for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
Amy L. Boney
Deputy Borough Clerk

The minutes of this meeting are not verbatim. Please call Borough Hall at (732)681-3232 to schedule an appointment to hear the tape(s) of this meeting in its entirety. All tapes are subject to being destroyed 80 days after the approval of the Minutes.