

Wilton Planning Board
Meeting minutes
October 18, 2018

Members present: Mike Sherrod (chair), Lisa Small, Norm Hurlburt, Cherieann Harrison, Mike LeClair, Bill McCrillis, Angela Werner (secretary), Charlie Lavin (CEO).

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by chair.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mms Cherieann/Norm to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2018 meeting, Approved 6-0-1.

2. Public Hearing for Alltrista Plastics Corp. dba Jardens Plastic Solutions for a new 98 space employee parking lot with new entrance from Pleasant St. Map 34 Lot 084 Zone Industrial.

Chair noted that the Planning Board only has authority to apply what is in town ordinances, and will make what recommendations they can in areas outside their purview.

Plant Manager Jason Holman gave a brief overview. The company has been in business for 70 years and is the largest producer of private label plastic cutlery. The current parking lot situation is a safety concern for employees, both in the mix of truck traffic with employee traffic, and the concern of access for emergency personnel if the current one entrance (Mill St.) were to be blocked during an emergency. Separation of employee and truck traffic is the goal, as well as a second access point to the property for emergency personnel. It was noted that a new build situation would never be built with only one access point. In response to traffic concerns already stated by abutters at the site visit, Jardens states they will make non-use of Railroad Ave. part of employee training and a condition of employment.

Town Manager Rhonda Irish, in her capacity as Road Commissioner, along with Dale Roberts of the Town Roads Department, have assessed the situation and gave the following observations and possible remedies to improve the safety of the new traffic flow:

- a. Non-use of Railroad Ave. Along with Jardens having their employees not use Railroad Ave., the Selectboard could initiate the process to make this a "No Through-Traffic" street. A selectboard public hearing would have to be held on this. Jardens has already agreed to pay for the signs.
- b. Pleasant St. entrance: The DOT has been consulted and the 30 mph speed limit can be extended approx. 900 ft. beyond the new entrance to around the curve and "vehicles entering" signs can be posted. The current sight lines are sufficient for the 30 mph speed, but the town can additionally cut back some brush to improve it.

- c. Town Police have been made aware and can have a presence at shift changes (7am and 7pm, with employees starting to arrive around 6:30).
- d. A speed monitoring sign can be set up to help drivers be aware of their speed and to document the situation.
- e. Where the Whistlestop trail crosses the roads signs can be placed by the snowmobile club or DOT.

The hearing was then opened to public comment. The change in traffic patterns was the major concern. The morning shift change happens while children are walking to and waiting at the bus stop, some along Pleasant and then onto Temple, to the stop at the Park. There are no sidewalks on this route. There were concerns that there is already "racing" and other disregard of the speed limits. Pleasant St. residents state that plowing is a concern in the winter and that road gets narrower. Town can address this. Various questions and suggestions were made regarding building the parking lot but keeping access internal. The main problem with this remains the safety issue of only one access point, both in an emergency and also when a truck gets stuck on Mill St. it may keep a whole shift from entering or leaving.

Why can't trucks go on one side of the building and employees on the other? A: Trucks need to access resin silos on both sides and need more room to maneuver.

Why can't truck deliveries avoid shift changes? A: Trucks are third party contractors with varying schedules that Jardens has no control over.

Can Mill St. be widened? A: No, private homes are on both sides.

Can shift change times be changed? A: Jardens recently went through a shift time change, and the current times were chosen by employees, their own school and daycare drop-off times were a large factor in their choice. A concern was raised about any possible future plant expansion creating even more traffic.

Mr. Holman responds that plant is already very near capacity in employees and machinery and there is no room for expansion. The parking lot is sited on the only possible place in order to keep a tree buffer, the large field is a capped land fill from the former plant operations and can't be built on. With no further questions or comments, public hearing closed at 8 pm.

Additional discussion by the board with Road Commissioner regarding bus stops, including the possibility of a crossing guard (Town) and/or a pedestrian crossing light at the intersection of Temple & Main (DOT). The board then went through the Findings of Fact for this Site Plan Review. All items were found to be appropriately addressed, with items 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, and 20 being N/A. It was noted that the level of traffic will be medium as defined in the town ordinance.

A condition was placed on Item 3, vehicular access, that employees not use Railroad Ave. and that this be part of employee training and a condition of employment. Regarding concerns that

are outside of the authority of the planning board, the following recommendations were made:

- a. Request that the Selectboard initiate the process to make Railroad Ave. "No Through-Traffic" .
- b. Request DOT to extend the 30 mph speed limit approx. 900 ft. East and install appropriate speed limit signs as well as "Vehicles Entering" signs.
- c. Request that DOT install a red caution/safety light at intersection of Main/Temple/Cemetery Sts. intersection.
- d. Request exploration of possible sidewalk installations on Temple from Main to Pleasant and around corner on Pleasant up to Railroad Ave.

Mms Cherieann/Mike LeClair to grant the permit, Approved 7-0-0.

3. Additional discussion regarding cannabis caretaker retail sales. Wilton has already "opted in" by already having ordinances in place regarding cannabis sales. Although the caretaker retail is a sub-set not anticipated and not directly addressed by the ordinance, it falls under the more general retail sales that are addressed. The state law has been approved and will go into effect Dec. 15. It was decided that if Mr. Sylvester would like to come before the board before this date, that the board could issue the permit with a conditional start date that conforms to the state date (whether that actually be Dec. 15 or if it gets postponed by the state).

Mms to adjourn at 9:35 pm, Cherieann/Lisa, Approved 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Werner, Secretary