

CHURCH CORNER COMMITTEE

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2008

Place: Memorial Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT
Present: Tim Griswold, Janet Sturges, Celine Sullivan, Sarah McCracken,
Ted Crosby, Joanne DiCamillo, Ken Levin, Stanford Brainerd
Absent: David Rahr

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. Approximately sixteen interested citizens attended the meeting.

Tim Griswold reviewed the planning for the Church Corner Project since 1993:

- There has been abuse of the town's South Green (parking on the Green, dangerous driving at night according to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust in 1993).
- In 1995, \$80,000 was spent on a plan to improve the Church Corner.
- In 1998, Tim Griswold assumed the Church Corner planning.
- The Church Corner Committee was formed in 2004 with the object to: a) maintain parking at approximately fifty cars, b) improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection of McCurdy Road and Lyme Street, c) maintain the historical character and significance of the neighborhood, d) reestablish the South Green and e) preserve trees.

Janet Sturges spoke for the Church Corner Committee:

- This will be the third and final phase of the repaving of Lyme Street.
- Preserve the South Green and maintain the historic character.
- Address vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Maintain existing parking.
- STEAP Grant of \$425,000 – construction is presently planned for the summer of 2009 (after the White Elephant sale and before the start of school).

Tony Hendriks (Hendriks Associates LLC) briefed the neighbors on the latest plan:

- Utility poles – moving paid for by the utility company (to widen road).
- Granite curbs – lower curbs for parking areas.
- Parallel parking is planned, within the scope of the project, on one side of McCurdy Road and both sides of Lyme Street and Ferry Road.
- Improve safety on Lyme Street – presently there is a rough road surface and poor drainage.
- Shoreline Sanitation will check the status of the storm drains.
- Add reflectors to some of the stone posts to be placed on the South Green.
- The Brainerd corner has been reconfigured to a soft curve with a fan dive (fifteen foot radius) for disability access.
- The STEAP Grant has been reviewed by state engineers.

Questions and comments were taken from the floor. Concerns were voiced about the following:

- Sharp turns.
- Use of stop signs to slow traffic.
- Sight lines.
- Signage to protect private drives.
- Work necessary to gain parking.

Tim Griswold reminded the group that presently there is a public information meeting scheduled for the Church Corner project on November 24th and a vote on funding on December 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.