

Present: Gregg Bohosiewicz, Gail Proctor, Gary Frye and Tom Mitchell of the Board of Adjustment; Richard Greeley and Charles McGettigan, Selectmen; Gilbert Testa, Fire Chief; Richard Peckham, Ross and Sherry Jennings, Eleanor Bresno; Sidney Barnes, Planning Board; others from the Association and public.

The meeting was held with regard to request by Hearthstone Community Association for a rehearing, based on the new evidence submitted, relative to point #2 of the original special exceptions requested. (See letter attached.) The object of the meeting was to decide whether request for a rehearing did in fact contain new evidence.

The Board members discussed the items (see numbers added to letter) and decided whether these constituted new evidence.

1. Re private contractor to plow. After some discussion decided in the negative with a vote of 3 to 1, Tom Mitchell dissenting.
2. Re adequate space provided for snow build-up off traveled surface, decided in negative unanimously.
3. Re Wilton Fire Department having sufficient hose to reach buildings without constant passing of fire trucks, decided in negative unanimously.
4. Re width of other Wilton roads in the area; decided in negative unanimously.
5. Re impact on local ecology; decided in negative unanimously.
6. Re agreement to hold harmless the Town of Wilton, etc.; decided in negative unanimously.

The meeting was opened to discussion by public and officials. Question was raised whether any of Wilton's town roads presently have over 20 feet of traveled surface width. Mr. Greeley said that new developments in town do have 24 foot paved width plus shoulders.

With regard to ecological considerations, which the Board had found vague, Ross Jennings said that it is really difficult not to be vague when one speaks in frames of reference not usually taken into account; that Hearthstone's real concern is with the sense of proportion--such a wide road seems an abomination relative to the kind of development they have in mind. With reference to jeopardizing human life and limb (question raised by the Board), they would like to take responsibility for their own lives. Mr. Bohosiewicz felt that as a Board of Adjustment member he would still feel responsible should a death occur due to too narrow a road, morally if not, legally.

Ross Jennings suggested the possibility of lay-bars, wider places in the road to allow the passing of large vehicles. These are used in England. This was discussed. Gilbert Testa felt that with a volunteer fire department with different people driving the trucks it would be difficult to insure that a truck would pull over at a particular place. Mr. Peckham asked whether it would not be possible to devise plans in advance for firefighting in the area. Mr. Testa said the Department does this frequently, but advanced plans rarely work out in actual situations.

After some discussion the Board decided that provision of lay bars was not new evidence.

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Mr. Mitchell asked whether Hearthstone might suggest other compromise widths.

Mr. Peckham said that normal car traffic requires only 6 feet, that Hearthstone felt that 18 feet was already a compromise.

Mr. Peckham asked how wide the town planned to make Foster Road, from which the Hearthstone private road will lead, and which the town is now in the process of improving.

Mr. Mcgettigan said that the right of way is only 33 feet there; that because of embankments on either side, it would not be possible probably to make it more than 20 or 22 feet wide without very great expense which the state would not consider a wise expenditure of State Road Aid.

Question was raised whether it made sense to have a wide road leading from a narrower one.

Since there seemed to be no additional points raised as new evidence, Mr. Bohosiewicz^{asked} the Board to vote whether they were in favor of granting a new hearing. Gary Frye, Gail Proctor and Gregg Bohosiewicz voted no; Tom Mitchell voted yes.

Mr. Bohosiewicz told the Hearthstone Community people that their next step if they wished to carry the matter further would be to take it to court.

Helen Ring

The attached letter is a part of these minutes.