

Village of The Branch – Special Planning Board Meeting
November 20th, 2019
Track #6

The Special Planning Board meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY 11787, at 7:30 p.m. on November 20th, 2019.

The following persons were present:

Libby Smith- Chairman	Christine Cozine- Village Clerk
Valerie Lindeman- Member	Dan Falasco – Village Engineer
David Wetzel – Member	
Glenn Haberfield – Member NOT present	

Chairman Libby Smith called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Chairman Smith made note we can't vote on the October 2019 Planning Board minutes because we don't have a quorum. It will be tabled to next month's meeting in December. Marie Zere has also stepped down as a member.

At this time the public Hearing was opened:

David Barnes - Assistant Town Planning Director for Smithtown - Came in to present a conceptual plan of the Smithtown Library and Caleb Smith House Parking Lot Renovation. He is working closely with Robert Lusak, Director of the Smithtown Library. They want to revamp the parking lot of the main Library, which is part owned by Library District and the Town of Smithtown and it falls within the Village of The Branch's Historic District. Want to get rid of the traffic conflicts by making it an entrance only and removing the diagonal parking spots to avoid patrons backing out of the spots. All cars will exit to the right of the Caleb Smith House and they will get rid of the first public parking stalls and designate them as employee parking.

Discussion ensued about the conceptual plan.

Dan Falasco asked if the plans went to the State DOT yet? Mr. Barnes replied no not yet. As a courtesy wanted to present to the Village first to get feedback.

Chairman Smith asked if they will replace the hedges along 25A? Mr Barnes responded he is not sure yet but is open to anything. Maybe lower hedges or lawn.

Chairman Smith also mentioned there is a need to check on the handicap parking spots as we have received some complaints here at the Village that there is not sufficient handicap spots in that parking lot area.

David Wetzel asked if parking lot will be closed while work is going on? Also will any stop signs be at the crosswalks? Will there be a full re pavement of the parking lot? Mr. Bader responded that the Library portion is fairly new, but the Town portion is not and it needs new striping. Mr. Wetzel also asked if anything is being done on the East side of the building and Mr. Bader responded no.

Chairman Smith asked if they were looking for a formal recommendation? At that time Engineer Falasco said that the plan conceptually looks great and once you hear back from the DOT get back to us.

Chairman Smith closed the public hearing.

Chairman Smith updated the group on The Farm Store. Heard from the DOT and they wouldn't consider giving them approval for widening the entrance unless they give consideration to moving the storm drain. They withdrew the application to the Planning Board. They are now just going to apply to the Building Inspector for a permit to make changes. They no longer will be changing the footprint or moving freezer/refrigerator.

Chairman Smith noted that Mayor Delaney will announce new Planning Board Member at the Board of Trustees meeting. At this time David Wetzel wanted to recommend someone for the job, but was informed a decision was already made by Mayor Delaney.

David Wetzel made a motion to close the meeting at 8:05 pm. Valerie Lindeman seconded the motion, all in favor and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Cozine – Village Clerk