

**TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS
DENNISVILLE, NJ
JUNE 07, 2011**

6:30 P.M. (PREVAILING TIME) TWP. COMMITTEE WORKSESSION MEETING

Mayor Murphy opened the meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act requirements.

Mayor Murphy presided with Committeemembers: Glembocki, O'Connor and Crippen present, Committeeman DiCicco left after the adjournment of the regular meeting to attend Middle Township's Senior Awards Night for his son.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

Dale Foster, the County Engineer, was present to discuss the proposed Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement Project for Dennisville. He discussed the different phases of the project and indicated that we are at the scoping phase. Jack Connolly, President of the Dennisville Historic Home Owners Association (DHHOA) commented on a survey he had gotten members and residents to complete to get an idea of what people wanted to see (i.e. sidewalks, which side of the road, crosswalks, signage, drainage issues, etc.) and their general concerns. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Foster indicated that they would like a resolution of support from the governing body. Mr. Foster indicated that it is a slow process dealing with the State Offices with Historical issues. Mr. Foster discussed the right-of-way issues. He stated that they would like to wrap-up the scoping phase. He discuss the drainage problems and traffic signage and markings. Mr. Foster indicated that when the project is decided there would be a Public Information Center Meeting. Mr. Foster indicated that the project was problematic with right-of-way issues and the issue of eminent domain. The Committee questioned Mr. Foster regarding which side of the street and costs associated with moving existing fencing. Mr. Foster indicated that which side has not been decided and the costs associated with moving existing fences could possibly be part of the project. Committeeman Glembocki commented on handicap ramps and Mr. Foster commented on suitable patterns. Mayor Murphy questioned whether there could be speed bumps and Mr. Foster stated that there could be no speed bumps on a County Road. The Committee commented on solar signs reflecting the 25 M.P.H. speed limit. Township resident and representative of the Dennisville United Methodist Church, John Muller, indicated that safety was first and foremost and commented on the speeding, pedestrian cross walk and the need to slow down speeders coming from Route 47. Mr. Muller commented on groups other than the church that use the church facilities such as the Girl Scouts and AA and reiterated the safety concerns due to the motorist not stopping. Mr. Muller commented on drainage issues with run-off on Main Street and Church Street and the water being ankle high and cross walks with signage. Mr. Foster indicated that unfortunately without the sidewalks you can not have crosswalks because there must be a sidewalk for them to be crossing to. Mr. Foster stated that the issue with the drainage at Main Street & Church Street has been ongoing and has been buried on his desk, but that it is on the radar and would be a separate issue from the overall project. Mr. Foster shared that he is working on resolving the crosswalk issue and the ADA requirements. The Committee commented on the "Stop for Pedestrians" in the middle of Washington Ave. in Woodbine. Mr. Foster indicated that Borough had purchased and installed the signs. Mr. Foster commented on the Yield to Pedestrians laws. Mr. Connolly commented on various results of the survey that was conducted such as how the respondents felt about crosswalks, yield to pedestrian signage and the speeding issues. Mr. Muller commented on speeding and possibly increasing State Police presence although he realizes that everyone is having to do more with less because of cut backs. He shared with the Committee that years ago they had some success with the police using un-marked cars. The Committee instructed the Clerk to forward a letter to the Station Commander regarding this issue. Committeeman Glembocki stated that perhaps we could also send a letter to the County Sheriff, Gary Schaffer, for assistance with this issue also. Mr. Connolly indicated that he has had good reception from the Sheriff with his dealing with him for the Historical Home Tour. Darlene Muller commented on walking in town and stated that the speeding makes it crazy. She asked the County Engineer if the proposed project for Dennisville is federally funded and if, with these hard economic times, the funding could disappear.

Mr. Foster indicated that there is no funding guarantee for this project. Art Riggins of 134 Main Street indicated that he was in favor of sidewalks and questioned if there would be curbing also. Mr. Foster indicated that with the proposed project, curbing would not be necessary. Mr. Riggins commented on the issue of speeding and requested that all the intersections have 3-way stop signs. Mr. Connolly also spoke in favor of the 3-way stop signs. Mr. Foster indicated that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways regulated the use of stop signs and for a 3-way stop sign to be utilized, surveys must be done to verify that the traffic volume is equal and that the intersections with Main Street and Petersburg Road would most likely not warrant it. Mrs. Muller asked Mr. Foster if they could do these 8 hr surveys and he indicated that they could. Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Joann Riggins commented on the traffic flow. Judy Grace of Dennisville indicated that she has two (2) houses on Petersburg Road and asked if there is not enough right-of-way is the County going to take people's property because her deceased mother's house is very close to the road. Mr. Foster indicated that this is one of the issues that make the project problematic and sidewalks may not be able to be done. Mr. Riggins asked that if that is the case will they be able to proceed with the improvements for Main Street without Petersburg Road and Mr. Foster indicated yes. Mrs. Grace asked if once sidewalks are placed are the responsibility and liability of the homeowner and Mr. Foster indicated that they were. Mr. Riggins pointed out that a homeowner could be responsible for someone tripping out in front of their home with or without sidewalks. Gerald McManus of Petersburg Road in Dennis indicated that he is in favor of the project and commented on the improvements. Marvin Jones of 652 Petersburg Road indicated that he is in favor of the project. Mrs. Muller commented on the timing of the traffic light at Petersburg Road (County Route 610) and Route 47. She asked that the Township address this issue with the DOT as she and her husband are. She indicated that if a dump truck is one of the first vehicles waiting for the light to change than most of the remaining vehicles do not get thru because by the time the dump truck goes the light is red again. Mrs. Muller also shared that there have been times when motorist make illegal turns on the red because they believe the light to be malfunctioning because it holds for so long. Mr. Muller commented on the favorable timing of the traffic light at Routes 83 & 47. Mr. Connolly stated that because of the timing of the traffic light at 610 & 47 cars cut-thru the Wawa parking lot and that increases the chances of motor vehicle accidents. Roberta Nuss of 150 Main Street (house is on the corner of Main & Petersburg) indicated that she was in favor of sidewalks and that she has three (3) small children and that they can not even walk their dog due to lack of a shoulder on the roadway. Mrs. Nuss also commented on the speeding issue. Mr. Connolly commented on the dump trucks speeding thru town and questioned removing Dennisville as a truck route. Mr. Foster stated that the County can not restrict Petersburg Road as a truck route, residents commented about the restrictions for the trash trucks and Mr. Foster advised everyone that the M.U.A. can regulate trash truck routes through NJDEP regulations. Mr. Riggins commented on restrictions and limits that Atlantic City imposes. Mr. Foster, Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Muller commented on speed limit signage. Mr. Connolly thanked Mr. Foster for all his hard work on this project and his willingness to assist the DHHOA. Committeeman Glembocki, Mr. Foster, Deputy Mayor Crippen and Township Engineer, Andy Previti, commented on solar speed limit signs. Mayor Murphy and the Committee thanked Dale Foster to attending.

The Committee discussed the following:

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:

Administration & Finance:

The Committee discussed the proposed resolution that requested that the County use traffic calming devices on County Route 610 (Petersburg Road). The Committee instructed the Clerk to place it on the next agenda for adoption.

The Committee discussed the correspondence from the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance regarding the new “buckle up” stencil for exit driveways and advised the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork to have the stencil applied at the entrances/exits of the municipal facilities.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution Authorizing the Township of Dennis to Coordinate the Municipal Alliance Program for the Year 2012.

ORDINANCES:

Nothing Pending.

Motion was made by O’Connor, seconded by Crippen that the meeting be adjourned.

ATTEST _____ ATTEST _____
Jacqueline B. Justice, RMC/Clerk John Murphy, Mayor