



SUBDIVISION... Engineer Michael Lanzafama presented his drawings for the planned subdivision of 1000 Mary Allen Lane during last Thursday's Mountainside Planning Board meeting. The board approved the project.

MS Planning Bd. Approves Dunn Subdivision

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—The borough planning board heard and approved four cases last Thursday evening.

The board approved the approximately two-year-long proceedings for approval to create three single-family homes on Dunn Parkway by Timothy Shea following a private meeting on June 26 between Mr. Shea's architect, Robert Freud, and borough engineer Michael Disko. Subsequently, Mr. Disko drafted a letter, dated July 3, outlining items he revised in the supplemental drainage calculations and landscape plans for the property.

Mr. Disko later stated, as a condition of approval, that Mr. Shea present a letter from the Town of Westfield stating its approval to connect to the town's 42-inch pipe.

Mr. Freud agreed to the terms. Westfield resident Allen Solomon appeared before the board, again voicing his concerns regarding the additional water runoff from the 42-inch pipe to Orenda Circle.

Board member Theodore Zawislak said the pictures Mr. Solomon provided do not establish that the 42-inch pipe is the source of the problem.

"At this point I think everybody has done the best that they can do on this," Mr. Disko said.

The board approved the subdivision pending the provisions.

In another continued case, the board accepted David Meltzer's proposed major subdivision at 1000 Mary Allen Lane with the condition that the property along Mary Allen Lane factor in either a berm and swale or a curb continuation, approaching from the north to reduce water run off, and continue a curb-type inlet along the southern curb line on Mary Allen Lane.

"I just want to commend you and your applicant in taking time to do a very good job on this. You've made a lot of changes to benefit your site and the borough," Mr. Disko said.

Two new applicants addressed the board.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Clara Plaskon of 1252 Deerfield Court received approval for a 15-by-16-foot sunroom addition off their kitchen

I-78 Interchange on Hold, Pending DOT Traffic Study

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — The Berkeley Heights Township Council last week announced that plans for a new \$33 million interchange for I-78 at Diamond Hill Road have been put on hold by state Department of Transportation (DOT) officials, pending results of a traffic study to be completed in late September.

According to Mayor David Cohen, state officials had said at a previous hearing on the project that the biggest reason for the creation of the interchange was to permit motorists who miss their exit to take a U-turn.

By questioning traffic flows and raising the issue of after exit traffic, Mayor Cohen and Councilman Joseph Bruno managed to get the state DOT to begin the study.

Officials said a piece of property, which the state would need to construct the interchange, is owned by Berkeley Heights. Mayor Cohen said in the event the state chooses to proceed with the interchange, the township would fight any efforts to take this property.

During the citizens' hearing portion of the meeting, Tsvia Adar raised a number of questions relating to the propriety of actions by the township's

Nature Conservancy Hires Hansen of WF

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planning board. She said neighbors had not been notified of the board's hearing on the Prestige Mountain Homes' proposed three-home subdivision off Mountain Avenue. Ms. Adar said she was "dismayed at the way the (July 9) public hearing was processed."

Councilman Thomas Battaglia pointed out that the planning board was an independent organization. He further encouraged Ms. Adar to attend planning board meetings and, if she felt due process had not been followed, to speak up and have her views recorded during the meeting.

Mayor Cohen said her complaint that the hearing was rescheduled for an earlier date was the result of hearings on the Connell Co. property requiring less time than anticipated.

The Prestige Homes' hearing is slated to continue on Monday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Bruno raised the idea of changing "no parking" regulations on Columbia Avenue, currently from 1 to 8 p.m., to begin at 10 a.m. Mr. Bruno said a bike path exits onto the road at that location and the parking compromises visibility and poses a safety issue.

Mayor Cohen said Berkeley Heights is in contention for a spot in CNN's Top 100 Communities list.

Mayor Cohen said the council would discuss several capital budget items at its Tuesday, July 24 meeting, including a new fire pumper, street sweeper and doors for the Department of Public Works (DPW) garage.



NO EXIT - Berkeley Heights Mayor David Cohen discusses the proposed Diamond Hill Road Route 78 interchange with councilman Joseph Bruno (2nd from right) at last Tuesday's council meeting. The project has been put on hold by the state pending results of a traffic study. Council president Elaine Perna (left) and councilman Thomas Pirona (right) look on.

Westfield Receives Grant to Promote Walking to School

WESTFIELD — The town of Westfield has been awarded a \$36,000 grant from New Jersey's Safe Routes to School program. Westfield is one of 29 municipalities to receive the grant. The money will be used to fund the walk to school program. Senator Tom Kean, Assemblyman Eric Munoz and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick expressed their pleasure that Westfield was chosen as a recipient.

"There are numerous benefits to providing our children a safe route to walk or ride their bicycle to school," said Sen. Kean. "This grant, which Westfield is very deserving of, will encourage physical activity in chil-

dren, reduce traffic and congestion on local roads, and help New Jersey with its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

The Safe Routes to School Program is a coordinated effort between federal, state, and local officials to provide children with a safe, healthy alternative to riding the bus or being driven to school.

Department of Transportation officials noted that the Safe Routes to School Program has proven to be very popular and extremely competitive in its first year. This year NJDOT received 274 applications totaling more than \$68 million.

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- Svedka 19.99 (750 ML)
- Popov 10.99 (750 ML)
- Crystal 9.99 (750 ML)
- Christian Bros. 16.99 (750 ML)
- De Laroche 14.99 (750 ML)
- VS 19.99 (750 ML)
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