

**Town of Vestal Planning Board Minutes
September 2, 2008**

7:30 P.M.

Present: Chairwoman, Joyce Majewski, Board members: Bob Bennett, Bob Warner, Edward Zimmer, Madeleine Cotts

Absent: Augie Gates

Chairwoman Joyce Majewski approved Madeleine Cotts to be a voting member.

Also present: Gary Campo, Town Engineer; Dave Berger, Town Attorney

1). **Approval of Past Minutes**

Motion by Madeleine Cotts to remove the last sentence out of the first paragraph on page 4, "*The extra effort and expense could be an exchange*". Minutes have been corrected as requested.

Motion to approve the August minutes with corrections was passed with all members voting in favor.

2). **China Wok 3397 Vestal Rd, BCTMP# 159.09-1-1** (portion of)
Part of cemetery property, New 6700 sf Restaurant

Chris Stastny, Griffith Engineering
Jim Orlando (and his son), General Contractor

Discussion only, preliminary sketch plan, the latest version, with additional information and modifications. The board is reserving any comment until they see the County recap.

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Off Campus commuting (OCC) bus route has agreed to put this stop on their route. The buses run from 12 P.M. until 5 P.M, seven days a week, making destinations stops once every hour.

A traffic study was done by Gordon T. Sansbury from PEGTS Consulting, who states the traffic on Bunn Hill Road onto Vestal Road is not a concern to him. At peak hours you have 50-60 cars turning left onto Vestal Road, There might be two hundred cars in each direction. If you look at the evening peak you have a total of 150 cars south bound on Bunn Hill and 84 north bound. The bigger concern would be crossing Vestal Road during the hours of darkness which are coming earlier and earlier as the season progresses.

A couple of options are signage to warn motorist of a pedestrian crossing area; or using LED stripping with a push button, which will alert the motorists that a pedestrian would like to cross.

The Planning Board wants to bring awareness and lighting to this crosswalk area.

Gary Campo stated if there are existing poles near the intersection, street lights can be installed benefiting and adding to the safety of the intersection. It would cost the Town \$100.00 a year.

Chairwoman Joyce Majeswki is concerned that traffic traveling at 40MPH, will not stop for pedestrians, especially during peak hours - not without a signal. Adding a signal at Vestal Road and Bunn Hill intersection is not warranted at this time. NYSDOT is talking about putting a signal there with the construction of Route 201, but according to Gary Campo they will not commit to it at this time, it is too early in the project.

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Site distance is not a concern from Sansbury's study. From where the proposed driveway is, you can see all the way to the overpass - 1300 feet in one direction and 575 in the other direction.

This is more than adequate site distance. He found in the work that he has done, pedestrian signs do make people aware. Not everyone will stop, people don't always obey the signs, but heightening the awareness - along with illuminating the area - will be a substantial benefit to safety.

Madeleine Cotts asked, "Where is the safest place for people to get across this roadway?" - The bulk of the students would be crossing at the Parkway walking on the on the west side of Bunn Hill to the north side of Vestal Road. It generally takes 5-6 seconds for a pedestrian to cross the roadway according to the Sansbury study. There are enough gaps in traffic allowing time for a safe crossing for pedestrians.

Bob Warner asks if there will be pedestrian traffic coming from the new motels that are soon to replace the current Holiday Inn property? He feels the majority will walk over rather than go to their vehicles and drive over.

It was asked if this Board would consider a special meeting if the County does come back with a review before the next Planning Board meeting. It was stated it would be subject to availability of the Board members.

It was asked if they could start clearing the land and knocking down the current house? No disturbance to the land can be done until they obtain a DEC permit. Knocking down the house and clearing the trees is

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allowed, but they must leave the stumps as not to disturb the land until the permit is obtained.

Broome County has not seen the new revisions so we don't know at this time where they stand with their comments. The contractor needs to submit the revised plans to the County and this Board will be willing to comment on the plan after County Review.