

Minutes April 23, 2014 Citizen's Forum

Over 30 residents attended the forum on Wednesday at 7PM

Lower Westfield Road/Homestead Intersection Project

Earlier in the week, an issue had come up due to a deep uncovered trench in the construction area led to traffic problems. Fortunately this was resolved within 24 hours as a metal cover was placed over the trench. It is anticipated that the more disruptive portion of the construction will begin in early May and the project is anticipated to take over one year in total.

2) Marcotte Ford proposed project:

Bryan Marcotte, Mike Marcotte and Mike Filamino reviewed their draft plan for an expanded dealership at Whiting Farms Road. They let the group know they will be submitting a bid to HG&E for the property by the end of the week. Many questions were asked. It was noted that the bid process would be completed within the next week or so. They noted that their proposal would bring less traffic to the site, have shorter hours of business and be a quiet business in the area compared to a Walmart. The Marcotte family has been doing business in Holyoke for many years and wishes to expand here rather than in another community. Contact information was provided for any attendees who had further questions.

3) Dollar Store Update

The Dollar Store that was originally planned to open near the Senior Center will now open near Schermerhorn's Restaurant in the former Clubhouse. Construction is currently underway.

4) HCC Road Update

The HCC road is under construction after a very long process to deal with wetland and protected species issues that cost over \$250,000 to address. Once the road is completed the HCC representatives are open to hearing any concerns and needs for mitigation that the neighbors to the new road may need.

5) Update of Officer/gun issue

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting held on April 30th at 7PM to hear information regarding the second time Sgt. Hart has lost or left a firearm unsecured. It is anticipated that a portion of this meeting will be held in executive session.

6) Whiting Farms Zone Update

There will be a meeting on May 27th at 6:30PM in council chambers where it is expected that results from a survey regarding feedback/public comment on the potential use of the land will be heard.

7) Other Issues/Atlas Copco Site Plan Change

The Planning Board will hold a hearing on a request by the owner to change the site plan. This will take place at 6:30PM (confirmed) on May 13th in the annex of the city hall on the 4th floor.

Notices: Hydrant/water main flushing will begin at the end of April. The notice was posted in the paper. Discoloration of water may be noticed during this process.

Questions raised in the meeting included: What is the update on the traffic issue at Richard Eger and Lynn Anne?

What are the blue and pink markers at Sterling and Homestead. What do they mean?

I agreed to follow up on these questions and thanked everyone for their interest and participation.

Submitted by,

Linda Vacon

Ward 5 City Councilor