

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AT 7:30 PM
IN-PERSON / GOTOMEETING CALL

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/320406909>

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States: +1 (669) 224-3412

- One-touch: tel:+16692243412,,320406909#

Access Code: 320-406-909

Kirby Hall, Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, New Jersey
MEETING MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Yates called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this Executive Session meeting of the Harding Township Committee was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on November 3, 2020 and published in the Observer Tribune on November 5, 2020.

Mayor Yates announced adequate notice of the November 9, 2020 meeting of the Harding Township Committee was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. DiTosto, Mr. Jones, Mr. Modi, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates

Mrs. Sharp called the roll. Let the record show that Mr. Platt was on by GoToMeeting.

RESOLUTION TC 20-152 – Executive Session

RESOLUTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to recess into Executive Session. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Modi, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting recessed into executive session at 5:50 pm.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Harding Township Committee that it shall adjourn into executive session to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 10:4-12b; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Township of Harding provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney-client privilege. The Township Committee will return to public session after this executive session.

Contracts:

1. Property Acquisitions – M. Roselli / R. Falzarano
2. PBA – R. Falzarano

Personnel:

1. 2021 Employee Salaries – R. Falzarano
2. Police Staffing – Chief Heller

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION – Mayor Yates

Mayor Yates reconvened the meeting into public session at 7:30 pm and asked the Municipal Clerk for a roll call.

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. DiTosto, Mr. Jones, Mr. Modi, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates

Mrs. Sharp called the roll. Let the record show that Mr. Platt jointed the meeting at 7:35 pm by way of GoToMeeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Yates

Mayor Yates led members of the Township Committee and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this meeting of the Harding Township Committee was given as follows: Due to the State of Emergence, Notice was sent to the *DAILY RECORD* and the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on September 29, 2020, and published in the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on October 8, 2020; Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road in Harding, NJ on October 8, 2020, and Notice was filed with the Municipal Clerk on October 8, 2020.

Mayor Yates announced that adequate notice of this in person and GoToMeeting was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTIONS – (NON-CONSENT – REQUIRING SEPARATE ACTION)

Mayor Yates read Resolution TC 20-153 in its entirety.

Resolution TC 20-153 – Proclamation to Recognize Mr. Walter Ness on His 100th Birthday

O 11-09-2020

WHEREAS, Walter Ness will turn One Hundred Years Old (100) on November 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, for over sixty-three years (63), Walter Ness has been a part of the Harding Community; and

WHEREAS, Walter Ness has served the Harding community by his commitment to the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, the Cub Scouts, the American Legion, the VFW, Harding Seniors, and uncountable volunteer activities; and

WHEREAS, to further spotlight Walter Ness' deep commitment to his family and three (3) children who were raised in Harding and educated in the Harding school; and

WHEREAS, Walter Ness made commercials for the Atlantic Health System to advocate for heart health; and

WHEREAS, Walter Ness served his Country on a mine sweeper in the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, Walter Ness spent thirty-four (34) years at the legendary Bell Labs;

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Township Committee, of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that Walter Ness' contributions to the Township of Harding are deeply appreciated; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Walter Ness is recognized for his community spirit and dedication to the improvement of the Township of Harding and heart health awareness; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Tuesday, November 24, 2020, will be Walter Ness Day in Harding Township and on that day Walter Ness will be honored by all of the citizens of Harding Township.

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept Resolution TC 20-153. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Jones and seconded by Township Committee Member DiTosto.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a roll call. *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All members of the Township Committee and members of the public gave a standing ovation to Mr. Ness. Mayor Yates provided Mr. Ness with a framed copy of Resolution TC 20-153. Mr. Ness thanked everyone and provided a few short words and stated he would like 100 more years.

Mayor Yates -- commented that he usually has lunch with the seniors four to five times a year and misses the opportunity to be with the seniors this year. Mr. Ness is always in attendance and always first in line for the food and first in line to say thank you for the food. Mr. Ness is such a presence at the Harding Seniors meetings.

***Mrs. Jane Riley, resident** – commented that this is an example of what kind a citizen Mr. Ness is. Her mother-in-law was on a senior citizen trip and loved to wear high heels, she slipped and fell getting onto the river boat in Seagurt. Mr. Ness stayed with her and went with her to the emergency room, forgone his lunch and trip to be with my mother-in-law. Mr. Ness is a true gentleman.*

***Mr. Jim Novotny, resident** – commented that Mr. Ness shared with him stories of when he went to Brooklyn Tech in Brooklyn and provided Mr. Novotny with materials from his high school. Mr. Novotny teaches at Livingston High School and the children were amazed at the level of detail Mr. Ness provided. Mr. Novotny thanked Mr. Ness for sharing his stories.*

***Mr. Louis Lanzerotti, resident** – commented that he has lived in Harding Township a long time, his children and Mr. Ness' children went to Harding school. Mr. Ness and I both worked at Bell Labs and at the senior meetings discussed working at Bell Labs. This past February Mr. Ness shared a booklet about Bell Labs with me at the senior meeting. Mr. Lanzerotti appreciates Mr. Ness' memory of engineering and reminding Mr. Lanzerotti of his activities. Mr. Lanzerotti congratulated Mr. Ness on 100 years.*

Mayor Yates said good luck and remember that November 24th is Walter Ness Day here in Harding.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 112 Kitchell Road – Dr. D'Urso

***Tony D'Urso, 112 Kitchell Road** – commented he has lived in Harding for 38 years. Mr. D'Urso distributed photographs to all members of the Township Committee. Mr. D'Urso reported that there is a part of Kitchell Road that he believes to be somewhat hazardous where people generally wind up in his yard. The row of hedges that are about 100 feet get knocked down and Mr. D'Urso has stopped replacing them. In 2019, there were three separate car accidents. When the Town was approached, Mr. D'Urso reported he was informed that this was never reported before so how much of a hazard could this be. Mr. D'Urso is here this evening to say the road is hazardous and the pictures show this during the light and during the darkness. (The pictures are appended to these minutes) One side of the street is Morris Township and the other side is Harding. There used to be a light at the dog leg that he believes is dangerous and believes the light is out. The problem is there is no light and drivers are not use to the bend. Mr. D'Urso asks that the light go back in at the turn, which seems to be the simplest solution. Mr. D'Urso would also like to put up a berm for safety to stop people from coming onto his property. A discussion ensued.*

***Mr. Platt, Township Committee Member** -- commented that he was on the Environmental Commission in 2009 during the light initiative and does not remember removing a light on Kitchell Road but would have to review the records. Mr. Platt commented that you remember a light there. Mr. D'Urso explained that there was a light but whether it was on the Morris Township side, he does not know this. A discussion ensued regarding the light, berm, and traffic. Mr. D'Urso commented that the problem is from Woodland Road to Spring Valley Road which is when the vehicles are ending up on our property. Mr. Platt proposed he would go back and review the records and asks Mr. Falzarano to have Chief Heller review this to see what else could be done. Mr. Platt is not sure a light is the answer or if it is a speed concern.*

***Mrs. DiTosto, Township Committee Member** -- commented it is a tricky turn. The turn comes up on the traveler quickly. Mayor Yates commented that Mr. Falzarano, Chief Heller, and Mr. Platt review this and come up with a solution. Mr. Falzarano recommended that Mr. Fox, Township Engineer, be a part of this discussion. Mayor Yates commented that the Township will look for a solution that the Town can implement.*

Chief Heller reported that the Traffic Officer from Morris Township and I have started to look into this. They did a very detailed study and analysis of the road. Chief Heller agrees with Mr. Falzarano that bringing Mr. Fox into the discussion would help.

Mr. Jones, Township Committee Member -- commented what about having a rumble strip along the road. Mr. Falzarano reported he will schedule some time and send an email out and will update Mr. D'Urso on the progress. Mr. Fox, Township Engineer, commented that he had a conversation with Mr. Jim Slate, Morris Township Engineer, and there has been a study on the traffic coming from Morris Township toward Mr. D'Urso's home and there could be some potential to add additional signage, including an advisory speed for the curve. Mr. Fox commented that we need to be careful not to place a barrier on the front of Mr. D'Urso's property that would actually direct vehicles back into the roadway to oncoming traffic.

Let the record show that Mr. D'Urso left the meeting at 7:56 pm.

2. Tunis Ellicks House – Jane Riley

Mrs. Riley, President of the Historical Society – read a prepared statement into the record. In 2019, the Historical Society contracted with HMR Architects from Princeton to conduct an evaluation of the house. Mrs. Riley read the following: “The mission of the Harding Township Historical Society is to stimulate interest in the history of Harding Township. The Society shall support and assist in and seek to achieve the preservation of documents, buildings, and site are related to Harding Township. In addition, the Society is responsible in preserving and maintaining the Tunis Ellicks House. We are all volunteers, not experts or professionals, and do not possess the skills or knowledge to evaluate the structural stability of a historic building such as the Tunis Ellicks House which was built in 1795. In 2019, during routine maintenance check, we started to notice the deterioration of some places in the House. The structure was evaluated by a licensed professional who had the expertise to evaluate such an old structure. Two firms were interviewed and a well-respected firm was chosen; HMR Architects which specializes in Historic preservation. The Historical Society, at their own expense of \$9,976.00, and the approval of Township Officials, contracted with HMR Architects to perform an extensive conditions assessment and document the existing conditions of the Tunis Ellicks House and make recommendations to identify the key historic elements to be preserved during any future work to be conducted to the building. As described by the NJ Historic Preservation Office, the goal of the preservation plan, is to assess and guide the affects for proposed treatment or construction related capital project and the existing fabric of a property.” The report was forwarded to Mr. Falzarano. The report identified numerous interior and exterior issues and classified them into three categories; immediate, short term, and long term. *A copy of Mrs. Riley's presentation is appended to these minutes.* A discussion ensued.

Township Committee Member Jones commented that a further discussion by the Township Committee is necessary. Mr. Falzarano commented that the cost of \$68,000 is for the first phase. What is not included in this price is; engineering, the bid specifications that would have to be prepared by an engineer, they would need to go to bid, and the question is can the bid be segregated due to there is three phases. The additional cost to get the total cost needs to be identified just to get to the first phase. Mrs. Riley commented that the Historical Society would like the Township's help if they looked to do a grant. Mayor Yates commented that the Township Committee has to grapple with, \$250,000 which is a lot of money and looking at what the Township is willing to spend and what private sources can contribute. Currently, the Township has conducted their 2021 budget and it is too late to add this expenditure to the budget cycle. Mayor Yates explained there are many questions to discuss before a decision can be made. Mrs. Riley commented that the Township Committee should make a date and walk through the house. The Township Committed thanked Mrs. Riley for attending and making her presentation.

Let the record show that Mrs. Riley left the meeting at 8:14 pm.

3. Sand Spring Road Speed Limit Draft Ordinance – D. Modi

Township Committee Member Modi – commented that on tonight's agenda is the introduction to the ordinance. There was a good discussion at last month's meeting. Correspondence from a few residents have been received and will be circulated to the Township Committee. Mr. Modi is respectfully requesting his colleagues on the Township Committee will support the introduction.

Mr. James Novotny, Sand Spring Road – commented that the traffic going down Sand Spring Road in the section of town where Mr. Modi and I live is excessive at times. When school is open, 3 pm in the afternoon, there is a lot of traffic and the speed is way over 35 mph. Mr. Novotny is in agreement that something should be done. Mr. Novotny commented that he conducted his own quasi traffic study and tried to drive down Sand Spring Road at 25 mph, it is terribly uncomfortable, a challenge to do 25, and when pulling into his driveway was given some unkind gestures. In the areas where the children are, it necessitates in doing something; 35 to 30 mph. Mr. Novotny commented that on the other side of Rt. 287, it is a challenge to do 25 mph.

Mr. Larry Weppler, Lee's Hill Road – commented after reading the Ordinance he tried to drive Sand Spring Road at 25 mph and stated it is nearly an impossibility. Mr. Weppler commented he drove the road both ways doing 25 mph and 30 mph, and believes 30 mph is a more reasonable speed.

Mr. Peter Deeks, 60 Sand Spring Road – commented there is a steep hill and a sharp corner. Most traffic travels greater than 35 mph and for Mr. Deeks entering his driveway is always dangerous. Lowering the speed limit and enforcing that speed limit will reduce the hazards that we face every day. Thank you for considering this.

Mrs. Abby Gallo, 169 Sand Spring Road – commented she lives near Mr. Modi on the more populated side of the road in between Rt. 202 and Rt. 287 along this road in addition to the homes being closer to the road there are many cars parked along the road which makes it challenging when you're trying to leave your driveway, walking your children, etc. The visibility is challenging. At least around this stretch of the road, a 25 mph speed limit is reasonable.

Mrs. Eliana Modi, 171 Sand Spring Road – commented she would like to repeat that she is in support of lowering the speed limit. Mrs. Modi commented she drives this stretch of road 10 to 20 times a day between sports and picking up children and has also driven 25 mph and unlike many others has not had any trouble with driving 25 mph. Mrs. Modi mentioned she would like to remind everyone about the comments that were made at the prior meeting; Mrs. Modi agrees with a comment made by Mr. Lanzerotti that all the speed limits in Harding should be lowered. Harding is a quaint town and we would like to keep it that way. A comment was made regarding technology and GPS where the algorithms look for faster routes and cut through. Harding is not supposed to be a cut through. There is significantly more density in this area, including the cars that come from Harding Green and Shadowbrook that cut through to get to the center of town. There are a lot of people using the road so lowering the speed limit makes good sense.

By lowering the speed limit, hopefully, to 25 mph, we will shift the curve of all the speeds that are coming down. Hopefully, all the comments will be taken into consideration and the speed limit will lowered to 25 mph.

Mr. Louis Lanzerotti, Brook Drive North – commented on Young's Road when this road way back did not really have any speed limits on signs and people tended to drive 30 to 35 mph. Young's Road has a lot of hills and valleys just like Sand Spring Road. Mr. Lanzerotti mentioned that Mr. Deeks' is absolutely right about the corner and the downhill by his driveway. When Mr. Vernon Condon came to a Township Committee meeting way back then, he was concerned about the speed limit and signage on Young's Road, and the Township did place a 25 mph limit on the road along with a lot of signage. When you have the hills, the signage is important

to have to remind drivers what the speed limit is. Mr. Lanzerotti would be in favor of lowering the speed limit and placing enough signage at the bottom of the hills and on both sides of Rt. 202 and Rt. 287.

Mrs. Cassie Savage, 173 Sand Spring Road – commented she expresses her support for lowering the speed limit to 25 mph and sent her expressions in a letter to the Township Committee regarding this. Mrs. Savage resides on the side of the hill coming down from Rt. 202 and agrees that many cars gain speed coming down and the same happens on the side of Rt. 287 and this is very dangerous with the amount of children that we have on this street. It is important we protect our children.

Mr. James Savage, 173 Sand Spring Road – commented regarding the side of the road along the Municipal Building, there is a major cross walk at our public Bayne Park and additionally many homes have landscapers and contractors who are working and park large vehicles on the side of Sand Spring Road. It is a very narrow road in general in design and width and in that capacity driving 35 mph, even on the large stretch of the road, with these frequent landscape vehicles and masonry contractor vehicles, and with a jogger, creates clearly a hazard. Thank you for your consideration, this road is a dangerous road in general.

Township Committee Member DiTosto – commented with regard to the large construction vehicles being parked along the side of the road, this was an issue a few years ago on all of the Township road and we discussed that these vehicles should abide by the Township's rules and encourage the vehicle to pull into driveways and not park on the side of the road. There was a concerted effort to make this happen across all of Harding's main arteries. If this is happening on Sand Spring, we should not look to alter the speed limit to address the issued, we should look at the issue of whether or not those vehicles should be parked there.

Chief Heller – commented there is no Ordinance or no parking signs that says they cannot park there. Chief Heller commented that the Police Department can strongly suggest no parking. If the vehicles are parked on a curve, Chief Heller commented the Police Department can ask them to move and they are obstructing the view.

Mrs. DiTosto -- commented that we should start to strongly suggest no parking for the safety of Harding's residents. As far as the speed limit concern, Mrs. Di Tosto was quite interested last month if there was any information about the effect, unintended or intended, of making Sand Spring Road 25mph and if there were any effects, intended or unintended, on the rest of the roads in Harding.

Township Committee Member Modi – commented that a resident of Sand Spring Road performed an analysis and Mr. Falzarano circulated it to all members of the Township Committee. With regard to unintended consequences, with this decision it is a reversible decision. This is a decision that can be done, in a thoughtful manner, and if it turns out that it has a horrible unintended consequence, within two meetings the decision can be reversed. With regard to the speed, Mr. Modi noticed that the new headlamps on cars are blinding. Will it be a change in behavior, absolutely, and it will take time. With regard to changing the speed limit in different sections, it may be a responsible way to do this, Mr. Modi's concern with regard to unintended consequences is not to create speed traps. There is support for this idea and it is a reversible decision.

Mrs. Rita Chipperson, Fawn Hill Road – commented regarding the Landscape vehicles. Where can they actually go, some of these vehicles are so long with their trailers Mrs. Chipperson cannot see them pulling into driveways on Sand Spring Road. Mrs. DiTosto commented it is a problem along many of Harding's roads.

Township Committee Member Mrs. DiTosto – commented that she drive Sand Spring Road doing 25 mph by Mr. Modi section between Rt. 202 and Rt. 287 this made sense, however on the other side of Route 202 toward Blue Mill Road, 35 mph makes more sense. Driving the 25 mph was more painful as previously mentioned. Mrs. DiTosto commented with regard to Mr. Modi's comment regarding speed limits in different sections of the road that is what is on Village Road and it seems to work. Mrs. DiTosto would be in favor of splitting the speed

limit on Sand Spring to 25 mph where it is more densely populated and having the 35 mph remain for the other section.

A further discussion ensued regarding the speed limit on Glen Alpin, having a uniform speed limit on Sand Spring Road, and signage.

RESOLUTION TC 20-154 -- RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following meetings are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **October 19, 2020.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following Executive Session meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **October 19, 2020.**

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept the Township Committee meeting minutes. *Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Modi and seconded by Township Committee Member Jones.*

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE – Mayor Yates

Township Committee Member Jones – commented that there was an election last week and it is his understanding as of 4:30 pm today that there are still 90,000 ballots in Morris County yet to be counted. As we do not have the results, we cannot congratulate the Mayor and Mrs. Chipperson so will wait till December's meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS: NONE

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are and are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

Mayor Yates opened the meeting for public comment at 8:49 pm and asked that if anyone would like to speak to please unmute yourself, say your name, address, and make your comment.

Mr. Allyn, Mt. Kemble Lake – commented if Resolutions 158, 160, 161 and 162 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

With no further public comments, Mayor Yates closed the public comment at 8:50 pm.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE #12-2020 – “AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY”

Mayor Yates asked Township Committee Member Modi to read Ordinance TC #12-2020.

Township Committee Member Modi reads Ordinance TC 12-2020 by title as follows

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE #12-2020

“AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY”

Which said Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular Township Committee Meeting held on October 19, 2020.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk to give a summary of the legal notice.

The Municipal Clerk read that a legal notice was sent for publication on October 19, 2020 to the Observer Tribune indicating that Ordinance #12-2020 was introduced and passed on first reading at the October 19, 2020 meeting and indicated that the second reading and public hearing were to be held on November 9, 2020 at 7:30 pm on or at any time thereafter for consideration of final adoption. Copies of this Ordinance were made available to the general public, posted on the Township website, and posted in accordance with the law.

Mayor Yates opened the public hearing on the Ordinance at 8:51 pm and any member of the public may be heard.

Mr. Chris Allyn, resident – commented if the list of positions are substantially the same as they were in 2019 or have there been additional positions added. Mr. Falzarano reported the positions are the same.

Mayor Yates closed the public hearing at 8:51 pm.

Township Committee Member Modi offered Ordinance #12-2020 and moved its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Ordinance was read by title on second reading, after the public hearing at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

Township Committee Member DiTosto seconded the motion.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp read the roll as follows:*

Vote on Adoption:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

Mayor Yates reported as a courtesy, the following resolutions were removed from the Consent Agenda; Resolution TC 20-158, 20-160, 20-161, and 20-162.

Resolution TC-158 – Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Local Government Emergency Fund (CRF) Grant

WHEREAS, as the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the most significant negative financial impacts faced by county and municipal governments throughout New Jersey result from extreme economic contraction, deficits in tax and fee revenues, and extraordinary increases in public safety and health and human services expenditures; and

WHEREAS, severe fiscal stress limits the ability of counties and municipalities to maintain essential services and take the steps necessary to fight COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, without substantial federal assistance, residential taxpayers would absorb the primary impact of meeting these extraordinary needs and closing any associated operating deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”), through the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS” or “Division”), has been deemed the lead agency for the distribution of the Local Government Emergency Fund (the “LGEF” or “Program”), provided through an allocation of the State of New Jersey’s CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Funds); and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities excluded from the federal government’s direct CRF allocation plan, as well as those counties and municipalities that are currently the most impacted by COVID-19 in comparison to

their available resources, are eligible for LGEF funds pursuant to a maximum distribution determined by formula; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$60 million is currently being made available under the Program, with a potential \$60 million more to be allocated; and

WHEREAS, LGEF Grants exist to support costs incurred as part of a local unit's response to COVID-19.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey will apply for a LGEF Grant in the amount of \$34, 602.00.

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept Resolution TC 20-158. A motion was made by Township

Committee Member Jones and seconded by Township Committee Member Modi.

Mayor Yates asked if there were any comments on the resolution.

Mr. Chris Allyn, resident – commented what expenses fall under this resolution and what is it that was spent associated with COVID-19 that the Township is requesting reimbursement. Mr. Falzarano reported that reimbursement is for PPE equipment and some expenses for personnel. Mr. Falzarano commented that the Township submitted a request for \$34,000.00.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolution TC 20-160 – Resolution to Appoint a Part-Time Finance/Tax Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that effective November 16 2020, Christine Zukowsky, is hereby appointed as a part-time Finance Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the three monthly probationary hourly rate will be \$18.00 not to exceed 29 hours per week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the three monthly probationary period, the hourly rate will be \$20.00 not to exceed 29 hours per week.

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept Resolution TC 20-160. A motion was made by Township

Committee Member Modi and seconded by Township Committee Member DiTosto.

Mayor Yates asked if there were any comments on the resolution.

Mr. Allen, resident – commented that these three resolutions are basically similar in the sense that they are all part-time Finance Department officials with Resolution TC 20-161 having a specific time limit. Can you explain what is necessary for such a short period of time?

Mr. Falzarano explained that Resolution TC 20-161 is where our Tax Collector, who is part-time David Griffith, has resigned. Mr. Griffith gave the town this resignation in October 2020, but allowed for the resignation not take effect until January 1st if necessary so the Township could hire a replacement tax collector, part-time. What is happening now, is the agenda has an appointment for a Tax Collector, part-time to replace Mr. Griffith. In order for there to be a transition, Mr. Griffith has agreed to stay on part-time finance clerk until December 1st, to assist with the transition and the tax sale that is coming up. The Township cannot have two Tax Collectors by Statute.

Mayor Yates asks the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolution TC 20-161 – Resolution to Appoint a Part-Time Finance/Tax Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that effective November 10 2020 and ending on December 1, 2020, David Griffith, is hereby appointed as a part-time Finance Tax Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the hourly rate will be \$25.00 per hour.

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept the amended Resolution TC 20-161. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member DiTosto and seconded by Township Committee Member Jones.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolution TC 20-162 – Resolution to Appoint a Part-Time Tax Collector in the Finance Department

Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney – commented that Resolution TC 20-162 will be amended because the existing Tax Collector resigned, his term, which is typically a four year term, will not be completed. Under State Statue, then the successor Tax Collector Alex Moise, his initial appointment will be to fill the unexpired term. Mr. Roselli amended the first paragraph as follows: “BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that effective November 10, 2020, Alex Moise is hereby appointed as a part-time Tax Collector with the Finance Department to fill the unexpired term of the prior Tax Collector, David Griffith, for the vacancy was created other than by expiration of the term of Mr. Griffith; and” and the remainder of the resolution remains the same.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that effective November 10, 2020, Alex Moise is hereby appointed as a part-time Tax Collector with the Finance Department to fill the unexpired term of the prior Tax Collector, David Griffith, for the vacancy was created other than by expiration of the term of Mr. Griffith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the annual salary will be \$15,000.00, which will be prorated for the remainder of 2020.

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept the amended Resolution TC 20-162. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member DiTosto and seconded by Township Committee Member Jones.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered to be routine by the Harding Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Township Committee Member so

requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS TC 20-155 THROUGH RESOLUTION TC 20-162 HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Yates explained that Resolutions 20-158, 20-160 through 20-162 were removed from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:

Mayor Yates asked Committee Member DiTosto to proceed with the Resolutions listed on the Consent agenda. Resolutions TC 20-155 through TC 20-157 and TC 20-159.

Committee Member DiTosto made a motion to approve the resolutions placed on this evening's Consent Agenda by consent of the Township Committee. Seconded by Township Committee Member Modi.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTRACTS:

Resolution TC 20-155– RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE TO THE CO-OP CONTRACT VENDOR AMOUNTS

WHEREAS, the Township of Harding, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40 A: 11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, Union County Cooperative Purchasing and the National Cooperative – WSCA-NASPO to purchase goods or services, the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System for any State or County contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System as approved by TC Resolution #20-049; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Harding has the need to increase not to exceed amounts for certain vendors approved contract vendors, and

JCT Solutions – Union County Co-op contract Bid # 42-2017 — Not to Exceed \$10,000
Office Concepts – Morris County Co-op contract #16 --- Not to Exceed \$35,000

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the Township of Harding authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods or services from Union County Cooperative Purchasing and the National Cooperative – WSCA-NASPO pursuant to all conditions of the individual State, Morris County, Somerset County and Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System Cooperative contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Township of Harding pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b), the certification of available funds, shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duration of the contracts between the Township of Harding and the Union County Cooperative Purchasing and the National Cooperative – WSCA-NASPO Contract Vendors shall be from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

FINANCE:

Resolution TC 20-156– Bill List

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Township Committee by various municipal departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that all vouchers approved by the Finance Chairman be paid subject to the certification of the availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution TC-157 – Transfer of Funds

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in certain accounts listed below to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the Current Year; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in certain accounts listed below over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the Current Year.

BE IT RESOLVED, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A 40A:4-58, part of the surplus in the accounts listed below be and the same are hereby transferred to the accounts listed below to meet the current demands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer be is hereby authorized and directed to make the following transfers:

Current Fund Budget

FROM:

TO:

Snow Removal – Other Expenses	\$21,000	Building & Grounds – Other Expenses	\$20,000
		Clerk – S&W	\$ 500
		General Admin – S&W	\$ 500

TOTAL	\$21,000	\$21,000
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MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

PERSONNEL:

Resolution TC 20-159 – Resolution to Appoint a Department of Public Works Driver/Operator

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that effective November 16, 2020, Adam Hettenbach, is hereby appointed as a full time Public Works Driver/Operator for the Department of Public Works; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the annual salary will be \$58,500.00, which will be prorated for the remainder of 2020.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE #13-2020 – “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 250, ARTICLE I OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, SPECIFICALLY §250-1 ENTITLED “SPEED LIMITS”

Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney – commented on the ordinance itself, Section 1 has Section 7-2 for speed limits and it should be Section 250-1. Mrs. Sharp will amend the Ordinance. Township Committee Member Jones – commented it would not be a substantive change if in December something were to happen where one part is 25 and 35 in another section of the road. Mr. Roselli explained that it would be substantive. Mr. Roselli commented that based on the analysis, the recommendation would be 25. To the extent that it is something other, the engineer would need to review the analysis and include an opinion in that regard as to where it would start and where it would end. Township Committee Member DiTosto commented that she would like to have that study. Mr. Roselli commented that the decision to change the speed limit is not a policy decision, it has to be based upon the study. A speed limit cannot just be changed because you want it to be done. State Statute requires that the Township conduct the study and as long as the study supports lowering the speed limit, then it can be done. Mr. Roselli reported that Mr. Fox should review the study that was conducted to see if it supports the speed limit change. Mrs. DiTosto commented that she would like Mr. Fox to review the study now before the December meeting. A discussion ensued.

Mayor Yates asked Township Committee Member Modi to introduce Ordinance TC #13-2020.

Township Committee Member Modi introduced Ordinance TC #13-2020 by title as follows:

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDING
ORDINANCE 13-2020**

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 250, ARTICLE I OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, SPECIFICALLY §250-1 ENTITLED “SPEED LIMITS”

Township Committee Member Modi explained the purpose of the Ordinance and moves for introduction on first reading.

Township Committee Member Modi read:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on November 9, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on December 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Modi offered Ordinance #13-2020 and moved its introduction and Township Committee Member Yates seconded the motion.

Mayor Yates asks the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: *Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:*

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Modi	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The consensus of the Township Committee was to have Mr. Fox review the study and provide additional information before the December meeting the speed limit of 25 is okay or if the speed limit can be split along the road.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Yates

The following residents made comments regarding the Menorah:

Audrey Silverberg, 50 Lindsley Road – commented about a menorah being placed somewhere in Bayne Park near the Christmas tree. Ms. Silverberg commented she heard that the menorah was not allowed as it is a religious symbol. Ms. Silverberg commented that this has been litigated by the Supreme Court in 1989 and they ruled that Christmas trees and menorahs are not religious symbols but are part of the same winter holiday season. The menorah should not be excluded being displayed. Ms. Silverberg commented that we appreciate all the work that the Township Committee does and believes the holiday season should be shared.

Sadie Hoberman, 2 Lindsley Road – wanted to comment regarding the menorah but was having computer audio trouble.

Sarah Karbachinskiy, 67 Young's Road – commented she will explain what Sadie Hoberman was going to say. Ms. Karbachinskiy commented that Sadie was confused as to why the Rabbi's request to place a menorah in Bayne Park was being rejected and why the request led to the removal of the star on the Christmas tree at the corner of Bayne Park. She personally enjoys seeing the decorated tree and even more enjoyable to see her religion as well as the religion of several other people here this evening represented in our town. Unless there is a large cost associated with placing the menorah, which is a symbol of light and hope in dark times, she does not see why the Township Committee would not support placing a menorah in Bayne Park. Please reconsider allowing a menorah in Bayne Park.

Melissa Simon, 37 Kennedy lane - commented she echoes what Sarah just said and what Sadie was going to share and mentioned she does enjoy seeing the lights and all of the Holiday celebration and having an inclusion of a menorah means that the town feels they have to take away a symbol that has always been up. Ms. Simon does not believe this was the intent. Ms. Simon commented not looking to take away, trying to add. Ms. Simone commented that it is her understanding that there would be no cost to the town. Please reconsider.

Mr. Jared Pine, 36 Sheepfield Farms Drive – commented he echoes the sentiment of what has been said this evening and mentioned that we want people when they are driving through Harding as well as residents of Harding to be in a place of acceptance. Not allowing a menorah in a public place, eliminates that sense and feel of acceptance.

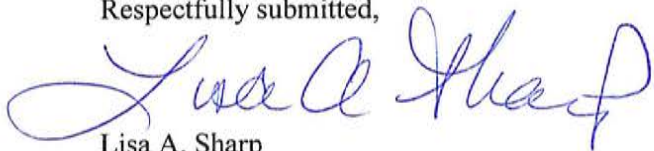
Mark Roselli, Township Attorney – commented that the Supreme Court has ruled that Christmas trees are secular and because there is no sectarian significance of a Christmas tree. The issue becomes when you choose to have different representations of sectarian components of a holiday season; i.e., a crèche scene or menorah, it cannot be isolated. If you choose to do this, you have to place a crèche scene, a menorah, more other secular decorations such as reindeer, Santa Claus, but the tree itself, the Supreme Court has ruled that it is secular. There are many people who have no religious affiliation who have Christmas trees. The policy here is to not have any sectarian representation in connection with the Christmas tree.

Mr. Fred Silverberg, 50 Lindsley Road – commented that the Supreme Court specifically said that menorah's and Christmas trees have the same status, but crèches are considered religious symbols.

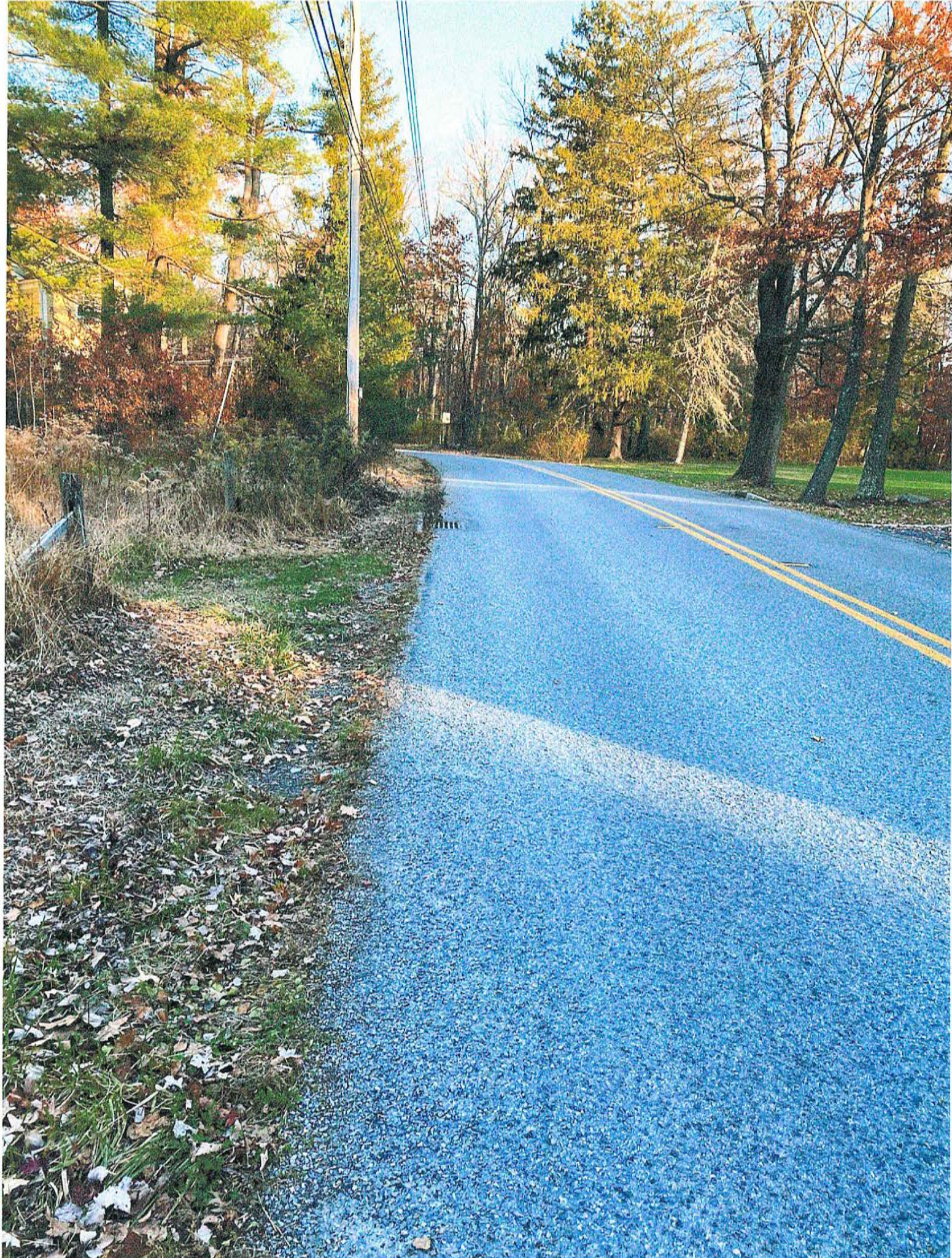
Ms. Wendy Gottsegen, 26 Maryknoll Drive – commented that she wants to support the children and the idea of being more inclusive. Believes this would be great, please reconsider.

With no further comments, Mayor Yates asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion made by Mrs. DiTosto, seconded by Mr. Modi, and with a vote of all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

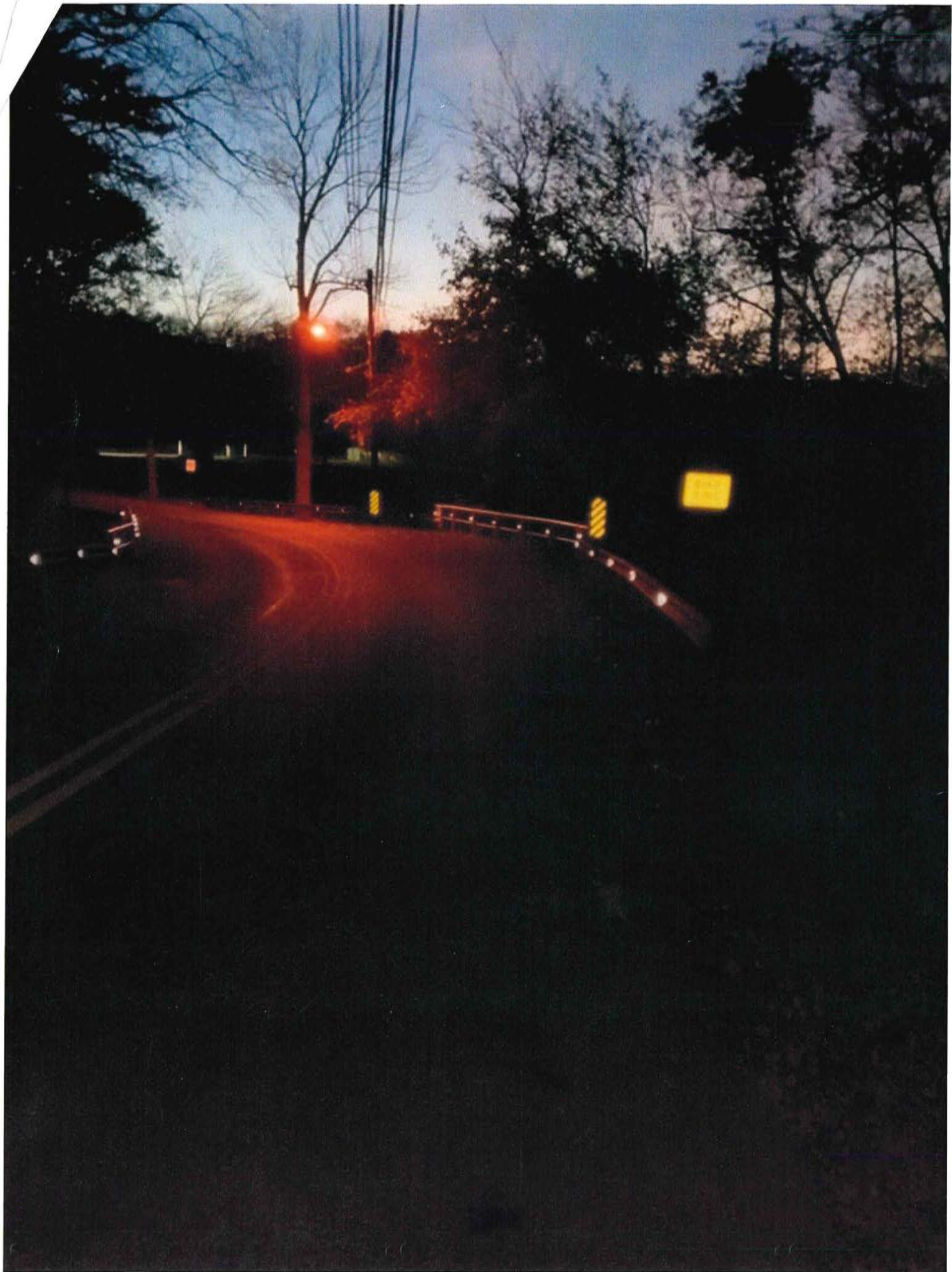


Lisa A. Sharp
Municipal Clerk









The mission of the Harding Township Historical Society is to stimulate interest in the History of Harding Twp. The society shall support, assist in and seek to achieve the preservation of documents, Buildings and sites related to Harding Township. In addition, the Society is responsible for preserving and maintaining the TE house and environs.

We are all volunteers. We are not experts or professionals such as architects or engineers. We don't possess the skills or knowledge to evaluate the structural stability of a historic building such as the Tunis Ellicks house that was built in 1795. That being said, in 2019, during routine maintenance check, we started to notice some deterioration in certain areas of the house. We sought to have the structure evaluated by a licensed professional who did have the expertise to evaluate such an old, historic structure. We interviewed two firms and choose a well respected, experienced architectural firm, HMR Architects of Princeton, that specializes in Historic Preservation.

The historic society, at their own expense of \$9976 and with the approval of Township officials, contracted with HMR to perform an extensive conditions assessment to document the existing conditions of the Tunis Ellicks house and make recommendations to identify the key historic elements to be preserved during any future work at the building. As described by the NJ Historic Preservation Office, the goal of a preservation plan is to "assess and guide the effects of a proposed treatment or construction related capital project on the existing fabric of a property."

The full report was forwarded to Township Administrator Robert Falzarano.

The report identified numerous interior & exterior issues and classified them into three categories, Immediate, Short Term and Long Term.

Please refer to the entire report for the complete assessment & maintenance plan but here are just some of the key items identified as "immediate":

Exterior replacement, repair of damaged clapboard siding. Prepping & painting of entire structure

Excavate/backfill to access foundation walls

Repoint rubblestone foundation walls

Remove concrete parging

Install waterproofing membrane at foundation walls

Install perimeter drain system

Perform archaeological testing survey

Clean existing fireplace brick, replace deteriorating bricks, repoint brick

Remove gypsum board ceiling in basement

Install insulation

Repair, clean & oil gutters

The "immediate" items to be addressed had, at that time, an estimated cost of \$68,776 which did not include the preparation of any bid specs or possible grant applications.

Our lease agreement with the township states " The Township will be responsible for the structural/capital improvements necessary for the historic structural integrity and safety of the structures. The society shall bring these improvements to the attention of the Township Committee in a timely fashion in order to coordinate with the budget process."

The Historical Society has met that stipulation by presenting the HMR Full report to the Township. The "Immediate" items mentioned in the HMR report have a clear impact on maintaining the structural integrity & safety of the site and we would hope the committee recognizes the value and importance of maintaining this cornerstone of the Harding Twp. Historic District and will budget appropriately in the 2021 budget for the funding of these immediate repairs.

James & Cassie Savage
173 Sand Spring Road
Harding Township, NJ 07960

November 9, 2020

Harding Township Committee
21 Blue Mill Road,
New Vernon, NJ 07976

Attn: Support to Change the Speed Limit and Stop the Sand Spring Speedway

Dear Harding Township Committee Members,

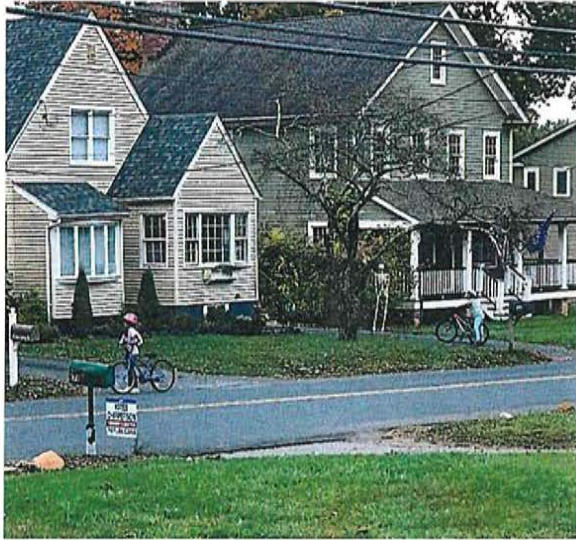
As residents of Sand Spring Road, we are writing in support of changing the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph to protect our children, pets and for the overall, safety of those enjoying our town either by bike, foot or simply standing outside their homes. Also, to protect the integrity of our town as a beautiful place to live, build relationships among neighbors and preserve land. Not to facilitate a cut through town

For the following reasons, we think it is important to decrease the speed limit on Sand Spring:

- The street has a natural hill from Mount Kemble which flattens and then another hill is near the bridge over 287, these two hills create a speedway and cars race by in this section, which we could argue as one of the most densely populated areas of our town



- The homes on our side of the street have very little frontage yard between their front doors and street, giving very little time to react to fast cars (grab a child who has gotten too close, chase a pet, biking, etc.)



- There are multiple bus stops on our road and many small children are walking home off the bus. It has become apparent that some disregard the presence of the small children walking and continue to fly by.
- Certain areas of Sand Spring have blind curves and are dangerous for drivers, walkers or runners

We have unfortunately witnessed way too many close calls with drivers speeding down the hill entering Harding and continuing to gain speed on the road and the same from the cars coming from Blue Mill or Sand Spring Lane coming towards us. When we first moved into our home over three years ago we had an incident in which someone was driving so fast they drove up our yard towards our home. A regular occurrence, one we witnessed again yesterday, people see us with children standing in the front yard of our neighbor's (about 5 feet from the street) and a car saw us and chose to speed up past us. A speed limit of 35 mph gives too much ability to go 40 and beyond and it's unacceptable with our homes as close to the road as they are. I have lost track on the number of times I have driven home from Blue Mill Road and am trying to turn left into my driveway, only to have cars riding my car because they were going 40-45 mph and slowing down to stop so I can turn in front of them is difficult.

Since last month's meeting, we have continued to watch cars speed by as we try to cross the street to visit, get the mail, pull out of our driveway or get our children safely home from school. Our ask is to make our street safer and to slow down cars, which as the research has shown only takes an extra minute from the drive to go 25 mph instead of 35. That extra minute is well-worth the protection of our neighbors and the integrity of our street.

We appreciate the work to help make Sand Spring Road safer and to keep our community a safe town.

Thank you for your action,
James and Cassie Savage
173 Sand Spring Rd