

Fwd: [WG Listserv] Preparation for the Special Town Meeting on the Shared Use Bikeway Task Force Report December 4th

Liz Everhart <lizeverhart9@gmail.com>

Thu 12/2/2021 1:51 PM

To: Christine Dibble <christinedibble@outlook.com>

 4 attachments (3 MB)

Council motion in response to the Shared Use Bike Path Petition clean adopted final 063021.docx; Kyle Lucas Responses. Nov 11 2021.docx; List of Questions.PKlein.docx; Final TF Report 11-8-21c.PKcomments.docx;

Here you go, thanks!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Liz Everhart** <lizeverhart9@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 5:33 PM

Subject: Fwd: [WG Listserv] Preparation for the Special Town Meeting on the Shared Use Bikeway Task Force Report December 4th

To: Compton John <johncompton@me.com>, Darrell Anderson <Deanderson47@verizon.net>, Gray Yachup <gyachup@gmail.com>, Klein Patrice <patriceklein@hotmail.com>, Barbara Raimondo <baraimondo@me.com>, Christine Dibble <christinedibble@outlook.com>, David Cosson <dcosson@rcn.com>

CC: Town of Washington Grove <washgrove@comcast.net>

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I am sharing my thoughts on this email (below) sent by Councilor Klein to the WG listserv. I think it was divisive and, to my mind, meant to sow doubt and confusion in the Task Force process and its report. The Mayor had already sent a Grove Alert concerning the Special Town Meeting where the voting process was described. I don't think it is Councilor Klein's place to tell the Town via an informal/unofficial listserv how the voting will take place; that should appropriately be handled at the Town meeting by the Mayor. The Task Force performed a Herculean task under intense time constraints, with many hours of meetings and research and provided the Town with a solid, objective report on time - ticking all the boxes required by the Council resolution. It is quite obvious from her tone at the last Town Council meeting and from the questions to Kyle Lukacs and the Task Force that Councilor Klein does not agree with the Task Force's findings or report. That is certainly her prerogative, but it does not make it right for her to attempt to discredit the report and the Task Force, which is how I see this. It seems improper to me that a Council member would write in her/his official capacity on the Town listserv about official business.

And, finally, the Task Force members are neighbors and volunteers and the critique of the report is rather harsh and certainly not within the spirit of governance in Washington Grove.

Thank you,

Liz Everhart

118 Grove Ave

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **PATRICE KLEIN** <patriceklein@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 11:03 PM

Subject: [WG Listserv] Preparation for the Special Town Meeting on the Shared Use Bikeway Task Force Report December 4th

To: Washington Grove Neighborhood Listserv <wgrove@googlegroups.com>

Dear TWG neighbors and friends,

May I share with you a few comments to help you prepare for the virtual Special Town Meeting on Saturday, Dec 4th at 10 AM?

Voting:

There have been some recent statements regarding whether voting by town residents should occur at this Special Town Meeting. For clarification, the Shared-Use Bike Path petition (Item 4) specifically requests:

"The Mayor and Town Council upon receipt of the Task Force report will schedule a Special Town Meeting to be held within 30 days thereafter to present its report to the Town residents. At the Special Town meeting, a vote by town residents on the Task Force recommendations will be held enabling the Town Council to make an informed decision based on the Town's normal, inclusive, deliberative processes."

While the attached Town Council response to 'act favorably' on this petition does not explicitly acknowledge town resident voting, it should be reasonable and understood a vote by town residents is due diligence by the Council to honor the signers of the petition and their expectations of 'acting favorably'.

Furthermore, one should ask 'why not vote'? As your Town Councilor, I am most interested in knowing the outcome of a vote by town residents on your Shared-Use Path preferences so your 'voices are literally counted' and I can best represent the will of our Town. While it has been stated that vote outcomes will be 'non-binding' on the Mayor and Town Council, it would behoove us, as your elected officials, to abide by the majority vote at the meeting. A reminder this same process was followed at a Special Town Meeting on the Dog Park issue when a majority of town residents at that meeting voted to establish a dog park and its location in our town. The Mayor and Town Council upheld that town resident vote and approved the Dog Park. Our town government must be consistent and transparent in our actions and responsibilities.

My advice is for town residents to consider proposing and confirming that voting will be conducted at the upcoming Special Town meeting. This should be addressed early in the meeting to clarify expectations.

Important! Electronic Voting Process:

It is important to understand the technical options for voting at the virtual Special Town Meeting. Voting can be conducted by asking individuals to raise their hand on camera, or to raise a virtual "yellow" hand icon shown next to their name on the participant list to be accurately counted. Both methods will identify the person and their respective vote. Understandably, some people may be uncomfortable being seen with a 'known voting position'. An alternative is to anonymously tally votes by electronic polling. This method posts a question on the Zoom meeting screen so the individual can electronically select their choice and submit their answer. The polling software anonymously tallies the numbers of responses and immediately project the results in 'real time' on the screen. HOWEVER, only ONE PERSON'S VOTE can be submitted from each connected computer user! Please consider how to ensure all eligible voters gathered together to attend this virtual meeting will need to log-on to their individual electronic devices (laptops, iPads, smart phones, etc) to submit their individual vote to be counted.

Task Force Report:

I reviewed the Shared-Use Path Task Force Report and submitted a list of questions on the report for clarification and response. My questions are posted on the Task Force Google folder but, for your convenience, I have attached those questions to this message for your consideration. Please note the Town Council charged the Task Force to "include fact-based evaluation of short-term and long-term effects on the Town of each potential connection", however, the report states only 1 of 3 types of evidence is based on facts (see page 6).

MC-DOT Planning Process Clarification:

Please see attached an email response I received from Kyle Lucas (MC-DOT) to several questions I posed to better understand their Phase I and Phase II planning process, the status of project funding, and their requirement for an easement of town property to ensure permanent access to the shared-use path once constructed.

MC Planning Board:

It has been stated that the MC Planning Board has voted to approve the Lower Brown Street connection option. However, it is important to understand that the MC Planning Board's role is **Advisory and only provides recommendations**. It does not have authority to approve actions by MCDOT or appropriate funding. Here is their website: <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meet-the-board/mission/>

TWG Resolution 94-04 (Annexation of Land at Intersection of Brown and Ridge Road):

Comments have been made that this Town Resolution 94-04 describing the town's annexation of the "Lower Brown Street" (Ward) property included a requirement for a bike path connection. This is not correct. Our town attorney clarified and advised the Mayor and Town Council (June 2021) that the notation of a 'bike path' in this Resolution was optional and does not obligate the town to establish a connection at that site. It is also important to realize this 1994 annexation occurred before the Salt Barn complex was constructed and resulted in an earthen embankment obstructing any pre-existing ground level passage.

I sincerely hope you find my comments useful and look forward to your participation in our Special Town Meeting. Feel free to further distribute this message to those town residents not on this listserv. This is how democracy works!

Kind regards,

Patty

From: Town of Washington Grove <washgrove@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:35 PM

To: washgrove@comcast.net <washgrove@comcast.net>

Subject: GROVE ALERT Special Town Meeting on the Shared Use Bikeway Task Force Report December 4th

GROVE ALERT



November 19, 2021

Special Town Meeting 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 4, 2021 by Zoom Videoconference

A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled by the Town Council and Mayor in accord with the Council response to the Shared Use Bike Path Petition, and that also established the Shared Use Pathway Connection Task Force.

► **Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting is for the Task Force to present its findings to the Town, as specified in the Town Council motion adopted June 30, 2021.

► **All participants at this Town Meeting are strongly urged to have read and considered the Task Force Report in advance.**

► **The Task Force Report:** The Task Force will present a summary of their Report, followed by a question-and-answer period for residents to address the Task Force on aspects of the Report.

The Report is attached to this email, both in Word document format with all links intact, and as a PDF document (only lacking functioning internal footnote links). NOTE that the Task Force expects to respond in a Q&A document to questions they received by November 19th, which will be posted on the Town website on Wednesday December 1st.

► **Discussion:** Following presentation of the Report and the Q&A, residents will have the opportunity to express opinions and preferences concerning the decision on the pathway connection. The Mayor and Town Council look forward to hearing statements from residents at the meeting. A time limit will be imposed on statements.

► **Voting:** Also at this Special Town Meeting, voting may be proposed on issues or preferences regarding the Shared Use Pathway Connection (that is, related to the purpose of the Special Town Meeting). *Such votes would represent a "sense of the Town Meeting". Vote outcomes will be non-binding on the Mayor and Town Council.* Binding votes at a Town Meeting (enumerated by the Washington Grove Charter) are restricted to adoption at the Annual Town Meeting of the annual Town budget, tax rates and public services assessment (Sections 42 and 47), and at Special Town Meetings held for one of the following purposes: modifying total annual expenditures (Section 42), overturning passage of an Ordinance (Section 15b), or imposing an action on the Town Council (Section 15c).

► **Meeting Agenda:** A written Agenda for the meeting will be available with the December Town Bulletin, on the Town website, and will also be distributed in a final Grove Alert to all residents.

► **Meeting information:**

When: Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Where: By Zoom videoconference accessible at:

Join by internet <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053026608?pwd=QjlxZHpuVEN0eVF0OWd2YnMxTlVXZz09>

Or by dial-in using Meeting ID: 820 5302 6608, Passcode: 403268

Who may attend: Individuals who identify themselves and whose access device also identifies them by name.

Attendees will be passed through a waiting room prior to being allowed into the meeting.

Only residents registered in Montgomery County will be allowed to vote.

Attachments:

Final TF Report 11-8-21.pdf

Final TF Report 11-8-21.docx

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IF YOU ARE REPLYING TO A GOOGLE GROUP EMAIL, and use "REPLY", your email will go only to the person who sent the email you are replying to. If you use "REPLY ALL", your email will go to the person you are replying to + the entire WG Google Group.

If you would like to receive a DAILY DIGEST of emails instead of individual emails, go to your Google groups at <https://groups.google.com/my-groups>, select "WG Neighborhood Listserv", then go to "My membership settings" and under "Subscription" you can choose how you would like to receive your emails.

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