



Township Council

c/o Township Clerk
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Meeting: 09/05/17 07:00 PM
Department: Township Clerk
Category: Council-Listed Items
DOC ID: 4243

11.F.7

INFORMATION ITEM (ID # 4243)

**Factually Incorrect Wording of Resolution 160-2017 re Preservation of Route 4
Greenbelt; Who is Responsible and How Will this be Corrected?**

Issa Abbasi

From: Alan Sohn <asohn@teanecknj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Issa Abbasi
Subject: Fwd: Wording and Status of Resolution 160-2017 re Preservation of Route 4 Greenbelt
Attachments: Route 4 Greenbelt Historic Designation Resolution for July 6, 2017.pdf; Amended Route 4 Greenbelt Historic Designation Resolution for July 6, 2017.pdf

Issa,

I still have no word from you regarding this resolution and I see no change to the wording on the township's website at http://teanecktownnj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?ID=4155.

Please add the following item to the agenda for the council meeting on September 5th:

* Factually Incorrect Wording of Resolution 160-2017 re Preservation of Route 4 Greenbelt; Who is Responsible and How Will this be Corrected?

Please include copies of the following as attachments:

- * The email below sent to you on August 28th
- * The email that started this thread on August 8th
- * The two attachments included here (the original resolution introduced at the July meeting and the amended version I sent to you)
- * The version of the resolution at http://teanecktownnj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?ID=4155 with the incorrect changes.

Please confirm your receipt of this email.

*Alan Sohn
 Teaneck Township Council
 201-895-3732 cell*

From: Alan Sohn <asohn@teanecknj.gov>
To: Issa Abbasi <iabbasi@teanecknj.gov>
Sent: 8/28/2017 4:42 PM
Subject: Re: Wording and Status of Resolution 160-2017 re Preservation of Route 4 Greenbelt

Issa,

In reviewing the version of Resolution 160-2017 that currently appears on the township's website, the issues raised and discussed have still not been addressed, nor has there been any response to the email sent almost three weeks ago after we met to discuss this issue in person.

While the paragraph that had been erroneously omitted has been restored, the clause stating that "with the exception of such property as may be required to widen State Highway Route 4 to three lanes in each direction along its entire length lying within the Township of Teaneck" which appears three times in the version of resolution that appears as of today on the website does not match the explicit wording of the amendment made by Dr. Pruitt and is inconsistent with that motion accepted by me and passed by council.

Please confirm that you have reviewed the video of the meeting and that the appropriate amendments will be made, in line with the amended resolution I sent to you.

Alan Sohn
Teaneck Township Council
201-895-3732 cell

From: Alan Sohn <asohn@teanecknj.gov>
To: Issa Abbasi <iabbasi@teanecknj.gov>
Sent: 8/8/2017 11:59 AM
Subject: Wording and Status of Resolution 160-2017 re Preservation of Route 4 Greenbelt

Mr. Abbasi,

Again, my thanks for the opportunity to meet to discuss Resolution 160-2017, regarding permanent preservation of the Route 4 Greenbelt.

As we had discussed, the resolution as it appears on the township's website at http://teanecktownnj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?ID=4155 is missing a paragraph that was in the original resolution that reads "WHEREAS, the Greenbelt serves as an effective visual and sound buffer to prevent imposition of highway traffic and commercial development into the adjacent residential areas, thereby improving the quality of life and increasing the property values of those residences near the highway". This clause was never at issue or discussed.

The other issue is the appearance of a clause that states "with the exception of such property as may be required to widen State Highway Route 4 to three lanes in each direction along its entire length lying within the Township of Teaneck" which was appended to the end of the final whereas clause and both of the last two resolved clauses. As we had discussed, this wording is inconsistent with the wording of the motion made by Dr. Pruitt at approximately 11:53 PM at that meeting (starting 3:47:30 into the video) where he stated that "I would like to amend to allow the Department of Transportation to minimally use whatever property needed to make a third lane going eastbound on Route 4 from Belle Avenue to Webster or wherever it is". This amendment was seconded by me the second Dr. Pruitt finished speaking.

The document that I have attached reflects both amendments as faithfully as possible: the removal of the paragraph regarding Block 6002 Lot 10, as well as the amendment made by Dr. Pruitt. I expect that you will review the video and confirm that the wording in my attached document accurately reflects the end result of our discussion after midnight on July 7th. In my amended document, a resolved clause was added stating "that the Township of Teaneck shall work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation to minimally use whatever property is needed to make a third lane going eastbound on Route 4 from Belle Avenue to Webster Avenue." to better match Dr. Pruitt's explicit wording.

I'm also confused as to why Resolution 159-2017 appears on the website as "Adopted", while 160-2017 is listed as "Scheduled". Any explanation will be appreciated, both for my benefit and for all those residents concerned about the status of preserving the Greenbelt.

Let me know when the corrected version of Resolution 160-2017 is loaded to the website.

Alan Sohn
Teaneck Township Council
201-895-3732 cell

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ROUTE 4 GREENBELT AND ITS DESIGNATION ON THE NEW JERSEY AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

WHEREAS, the Route 4 Greenbelt dates back to 1933 and was created with the intention to create a favorable impression upon all those entering Teaneck by way of the Route 4 state highway; and

WHEREAS, this area, extending from the Englewood border to River Road and consisting of publicly owned property along Route 4, has been planted with shrubbery and flowers to beautify the area; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt serves as an effective visual and sound buffer to prevent imposition of highway traffic and commercial development into the adjacent residential areas, thereby improving the quality of life and increasing the property values of those residences near the highway; and

WHEREAS, Block 4102, Lot 27, a .94-acre wooded property on the south side of Route 4 at the Englewood border, is protected under an Agreement and Restrictions document, dated December 20, 1966, executed by the Mayor of Teaneck and the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development (the predecessor of the Department of Environmental Protection), which acknowledges the Township's acceptance of Green Acres funds for the purchase and includes a map of the funded property and any such Green Acres funded parkland cannot be used for other than recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Block 6002, Lot 10, the 4.92-acre wooded Route 4 buffer adjoining Alfred Avenue, was acquired by the township from the Phelps Estate with provisions specified on deed page 6 (Deed Book 2953, Deed Book Page 101) that the property can be used "only for public park purposes"; and

WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Office of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determined in its September 1, 2015, opinion that the entire Route 4 Greenbelt meets all the office's criteria and has been deemed eligible for designation as an historic district; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council reaffirms its April 1987 Resolution 118-87 calling for permanent historic preservation of the Route 4 Greenbelt, one of many such resolutions passed by the Township Council in the past several decades that have advocated for preservation of the Greenbelt and expressed opposition to commercialization of the Route 4 corridor; and

WHEREAS; this Township Council would like to maintain this Greenbelt in its present form and has determined that the Greenbelt in its entirety shall be designated and dedicated as a historic landmark,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck, that the Township Attorney shall be directed to submit all necessary applications to have the Route 4 Greenbelt Open Space Corridor Historic District listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Manager and Attorney shall be directed to work with the Green Acres Program in the NJDEP to identify any and all township-owned properties acquired with funds from the state that are encumbered under restrictions that limit use of such properties to recreation and conservation purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all township-owned properties constituting the Route 4 Greenbelt shall be added to the township's Recreation and Open Space Inventory with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF THE ROUTE 4 GREENBELT AND ITS DESIGNATION ON THE NEW JERSEY AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

(As amended at July 6th council meeting)

WHEREAS, the Route 4 Greenbelt dates back to 1933 and was created with the intention to create a favorable impression upon all those entering Teaneck by way of the Route 4 state highway; and

WHEREAS, this area, extending from the Englewood border to River Road and consisting of publicly owned property along Route 4, has been planted with shrubbery and flowers to beautify the area; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt serves as an effective visual and sound buffer to prevent imposition of highway traffic and commercial development into the adjacent residential areas, thereby improving the quality of life and increasing the property values of those residences near the highway; and

WHEREAS, Block 4102, Lot 27, a .94-acre wooded property on the south side of Route 4 at the Englewood border, is protected under an Agreement and Restrictions document, dated December 20, 1966, executed by the Mayor of Teaneck and the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development (the predecessor of the Department of Environmental Protection), which acknowledges the Township's acceptance of Green Acres funds for the purchase and includes a map of the funded property and any such Green Acres funded parkland cannot be used for other than recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Office of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determined in its September 1, 2015, opinion that the entire Route 4 Greenbelt meets all the office's criteria and has been deemed eligible for designation as an historic district; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council reaffirms its April 1987 Resolution 118-87 calling for permanent historic preservation of the Route 4 Greenbelt, one of many such resolutions passed by the Township Council in the past several decades that have advocated for preservation of the Greenbelt and expressed opposition to commercialization of the Route 4 corridor; and

WHEREAS; this Township Council would like to maintain this Greenbelt in its present form and has determined that the Greenbelt in its entirety shall be designated and dedicated as a historic landmark,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all township-owned properties constituting the Route 4 Greenbelt shall be added to the township's Recreation and Open Space Inventory with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Teaneck shall work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation to minimally use whatever property is needed to make a third lane going eastbound on Route 4 from Belle Avenue to Webster Avenue.