

March 11, 2009

Cold Spring Parking Study Stakeholders Presentation (October 16, 2008)

From: Michael Armstrong, Lead Member,
Cold Spring Parking Subcommittee of the Government, Infrastructure and Public Service
Working Group, Comprehensive Plan

I made a presentation on October 16, 2008 to Stakeholders in the community under the auspices of the Cold Spring Comprehensive Plan. The presentation covered substantially the same material and recommendations presented to the Village Board on September 30, 2008 (discussion of parking safety issues was omitted in the interest of time). A copy of the presentation slides is available on the village website at http://www.coldspringny.gov/Pages/ColdSpringNY_BComm/Reports_and_Documents. The meeting at the Firehouse on Church Street was well attended (32 people signed in – a copy of the sign in sheet is attached). The presentation was generally well received. All of the other subcommittee members attended and were introduced: Michael Reisman, Donna Steltz, Tom Rolston, and Cathryn Fadde.

Some in attendance expressed concern about the impact of metering parking on village character, others were skeptical of the projected revenue figures. Concern focused in particular on the potential for additional crowding on Church Street, if meters were installed along Main Street. I responded that, for the initial phase of the project, our data showed there was ample capacity during weekdays, and that on crowded weekends things would be no worse. I explained that in later phases, metering crowded side streets would be an effective way of ensuring resident access to spaces (residents would receive exemptions from metering requirements for qualifying vehicles under the Parking Benefit District Proposal). Notes taken during the meeting by Parking Working Group member Cathryn Fadde are attached.

The Subcommittee has heard from members of the public since the meeting that not enough attention was paid to managing traffic surges, when the community holds an event drawing hundreds of visitors. This is an important issue. We have had informal discussions with the School Superintendent regarding the potential use of Haldane spaces as a satellite lot, using a van or trolley to shuttle visitors to the event. More needs to be done.

Addendum 1: Public Comments, Presentation on Metering Parking in Cold Spring, Cold Spring Firehouse, October 16, 2008

1. Richard Turner, who serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals, lives in Spring Brook was concerned about congestion on Fair St. and the Municipal lot. Asked about resident parking permits for condos, questioned municipal lot for winter parking, said many use condo lot for special ball field events, recommended outlying areas for special events. Mentioned he was on ZBA re off-street regulations.
2. Nat Smith re: RPP - asked why Zone 2 [that is, a larger-area parking permit district] was not approved [when the zone west of the railroad was established in 2005] and why we think it would be approved if we reapplied.
Response was rising gas prices [were boosting the number of people who commuted by train] and lack of local commuter parking. He said Nyack prices for parking were not relative to Cold Spring.
3. Doug_____ lives on Main St., Brought up the issue of space turnover.
4. Felice Ramella spoke about the concerns of Church St. residents with no driveways and was concerned that the parking study used comparisons to large cities like Boston instead of smaller locals. Response was supply and demand would be effective in the allocation of spaces and that the metering was to create convenience = the meters should work for the residents. Later mentioned the difficulties with deliveries on side streets.
5. No name given - Redhead, "Where do people go?"
6. Brandon del Pozo, Nelsonville resident, asked if the point of metering was revenue and felt that the character of the village was not enhanced by metering.
7. John Teagle Village Trustee, was concerned about the side streets and the RRP extending to Zone 2, also mentioned stickers for condo residents. He was also in favor of ending off street parking requirements.
8. Wayne - was concerned about the fire company being exempt from parking when responding to calls.
9. Sara from Nelsonville, whose mother lives on Fair (del Pozo). Who is motivating the study and who has the problem?
10. Anne Impellizzari of High St., expressed that commuters are being pressed to use the side streets. She also said there were possibly traffic flow/access issues with the Marathon Battery lot.
11. Karen Dunn of Zone 1 responded to Nat Smith saying the timing was good to reapply for the RPP for Zone 2.

12. Susan Early of C & E Paints, Garden/Main St., asked what the gross revenue would be and expressed great concern for the her particular type of customer - a customer who comes in several times a day for less than 15 minutes at a time.

13. Sue [Peehl] Fair St., Used her personal experience of going to other tourist towns to express the idea that convenience does not conflict with money. Cold Spring was not like other locations and that people want to spend the day, leaving their car in one place to explore the town/have a meal/shop etc.

Addendum 2, Proposed List of Meter Vendors to be invited to send Proposals

Eric Braverman
Business Development Manager
Parkeon, Inc.
19 Nancy Drive
Sayville, NY 11782

Duncan Industries
Suite 1600
633 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

QI Technologies
Unit 101,
3820 Jacombs Road
Richmond, BC, V6V 1Y6
Canada

Digital Payment Technologies
CTR NY Inc.
907 Broadway
New York, NY
10010

Clancy Systems
2250 S. Oneida St.
Suite 308
Denver, CO 80224

Addendum 3, Proposed Meter Specifications