

**MARIEMONT PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 5, 2016**

The Mariemont Planning Commission met Tuesday April 5, 2016. Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Present were Mr. Wolter and Mr. Vianello. Also in attendance was the Building Administrator Don Keyes.

The request was from The Village of Mariemont to add a crosswalk and center island across Wooster Pike just east of Settle Road. The crosswalk will be offset from the South side to the North side to allow clearance for a driveway on the South side of the street. A flashing beacon on the side of the road, activated by the pedestrian, will allow pedestrian traffic to indicate their presence in the street.

*Finding of the Building Commissioner: Children on the south side of Wooster Pike need access to the North side of the road to get to the Jr High School in Fairfax and to the Elementary School in Mariemont. There is a crosswalk at Plainville and further down at the traffic light in Fairfax. These routes require children to use a longer route to get to school and are often bypassed.*

*The crosswalk design has street-side indicators that are illuminated and flash when a pedestrian pushes a button on the device. This allows drivers to know someone wants to cross the street. The flashing lights are at street-side and not overhead.*

*There will be an offset in the crosswalk to allow clearance for the driveway on the south side of the street. This has been discussed with the homeowner. Entry and exit from the driveway will not require the crosswalk to be blocked.*

Mayor Policastro said this project started approximately two years ago when the former School Superintendent came to the Village with the Safe Routes to School Project. This is the final part of the project. This area is very volatile where the children and residents cross Wooster Pike. It was requested to have a light installed to help those cross safely. In addition, there is a visually impaired resident who uses that crosswalk to get to the bus stop.

Engineer Ertel said the light is called a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. It has a pedestrian crossing sign. There are two lights that will flash on and off when a pedestrian pushes a button. The flashing lights will alert motorists that a pedestrian wants to cross. There will be yield bars to indicate to motorists where they should stop. There will be an island should pedestrians need to stop half way to look either way for traffic.

Mayor Policastro said St. Rt. 50 /Wooster Pike is a highway with a middle grass island. The Village did request a continuous island area so there would be a safe area for children to stop if traffic is flying along. We did request that the island extend further west towards Fairfax. They wanted \$5,000 to draw up more plans. He would not authorize that payment but did reach a compromise of \$1,000. Several years ago the Village paid \$20,000 for the study. The State of Ohio is now ready to go forward with the project. We just recently received the diagram of how this project will look which needs Planning Commission approval.

Mr. Vianello suggested two options: (1) Extend the island west to the Village boundary. It appears to be smaller in width than most islands in our community. Village Engineer said the island is 8' across where most in the Village are 8'-10' across. Mr. Vianello said he is not trying to increase cost but thought if the island was extended towards Fairfax it could incorporate the 'Welcome to Mariemont' sign and possibly plant a barrier tree. He is hopeful that the curbs are the

same height as other islands. Standing in the middle of Wooster Pike he wants pedestrians to have a sense of safety. (2) Extend the island so when travelling west a left hand turn could be made into the residences on Wooster Pike. He is not sure it would be a good choice as it would cause residents not to be able to turn over the island but would have to go right.

Ms. Diana Reitz, 6519 Wooster Pike, said she is not sure how she would get around the island if it was in front of her house.

Ms. Coleen Hanley, 6521 Wooster Pike, said she would not like that idea at all. She said she experiences a hard enough time presently getting in and out of her driveway. She is okay with the island going west towards Fairfax but she does not want it in front of her residence. Over the years there have been many construction projects in front of her house. She will be losing part of her front yard, driveway and space for parking. She will be having nephews living with her which will be more traffic coming in and out of her driveway.

Mayor Policastro said we will be utilizing approximately one foot of the Village right of way but we will be getting new sidewalks.

Mr. Vianello withdrew his option of expanding the island further east. He would still be in favor of expanding it west towards Fairfax. Village Engineer Ertel said it may be extended but not more than three feet. Ms. Hanley said people do not stop for the cross walk now and she has never seen a student cross at that crosswalk in 25 years.

Ms. Reitz asked for clarification as to where the flashing sign would be. Engineer Ertel said it would be west of the existing telephone pole. Ms. Reitz asked that there will be a lane available to pull into when coming in and out of her driveway (such as a suicide lane). Mayor Policastro said there will not be a suicide lane but more of just an opening to pull in and out of. Mr. Vianello asked if Ms. Wright is asking that the existing markings be extended in front of 6521 and 6519 Wooster Pike making a safe space to pull in and out of, from his perspective he would not feel very safe there for very long. In hindsight, perhaps moving the 'Welcome to Mariemont' sign would not be a good idea citing safety concerns due to limited vision.

Ms. Molly Perez, 6863 Settle Road, asked for the possibility of putting a light at the intersection of Belmont/Settle & Wooster. Engineer Ertel said a study was done in 2013 and it was denied because there was not enough traffic coming out of Belmont Avenue. Mayor Policastro said the State of Ohio controls Wooster Pike, not the Village of Mariemont. Ms. Perez was curious if the study was done prior to Fairfax blocking all of their streets. She wonders if traffic has increased since 2013 on Settle Road.

Discussion ensued regarding making Settle a cul-de-sac. Mr. Wolter said that would move the traffic flow and traffic calming issues to another street. Mayor Policastro said in keeping with the Sunshine Law, we must limit the conversation to the agenda matter.

Ms. Hanley asked when the project work would begin. Engineer Ertel construction would most likely begin in July. Ms. Hanley asked for verification that there will be a way to get in and out of their driveways, the timeframe of the sidewalk installation and when her fence would be replaced. Engineer Ertel said the fence will probably come down prior to June 2, 2016. The work is expected to take three months. He anticipates the fence will be installed in the fall. There will be access to the driveways but after the concrete is poured there will be 3-4 days when they will not have access to their driveways. Both residents asked for prior notification preferably more than the short notice they received for this meeting. Engineer Ertel said he would contact via e-mail.

Mayor Policastro moved, seconded by Mr. Vianello to allow the addition of a crosswalk and center island with an extended small extension to the west, leaving the east boundary of the island as is currently diagramed. On roll call; three ayes, no nays.

Engineer Ertel said he will prepare the purchase order for the design construction drawings for change to the median island proposed for the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at Belmont and Wooster Pike.

Mayor Policastro moved, seconded by Mr. Vianello to accept the minutes as written for February 10, 2016. On roll call; three ayes, no nays.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Mr. Jerry Vianello, Secretary  
Secretary

