

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN HALL
June 13, 2018, 7 p.m.

- I. GENERAL BUSINESS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2018 Annual Meeting, May 9, 2018 Council Meeting, and May 14, 2018 Town Forum on the Purple Line
 - D. Approval of May 2018 Financial Report
 - E. [Town Manager's Report](#)
 - F. Public Comments

- II. VARIANCE HEARINGS
 - A. ~~[Salo, 4111 Rosemary Street, Front Yard Fence](#)~~

- III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS
 - A. [Revised Speed Hump Policy \(Public Services Committee\)](#)
 - B. [Neighborhood Watch Program \(Public Services Committee\)](#)
 - C. Purple Line Mitigation
 - D. Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation

- IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM

I-E

TO: Town Council
FR: Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DATE: June 13, 2018

This report highlights some of the initiatives undertaken by Town staff over the past month. In the interest of brevity, I have not included ongoing staff functions. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

- Assisted Purple Line Mitigation Committee with multiple efforts, including obtaining additional information from MTA/PLTP and identifying/interviewing firms to provide acoustical engineering assistance.
- Met with SHA representatives re. East West Highway pedestrian safety improvements.
- Communicated with the Montgomery County Police Department re. possible speed cameras on East West Highway.
- Continued research on possible Zimmerman Park pedestrian pathway/staircase.
- Assisted Long Range Planning Committee with research on dog exercise areas.
- Continued dialogue with Climate and Environment Committee on sustainable garden project.
- Assisted Long Range Planning Committee with review of concept plans, and submission of Town comments, re. 7121 and 7126 Wisconsin Avenue.
- Communicated with Chevy Chase at Home re. possible cooperative efforts to assist elderly/disabled Town residents.
- Communicated with Election Board re. annual report to the Council.
- Assisted Long Range Planning Committee with planning for state legislature District 18 candidates' events.
- Identified and interviewed firms to provide A/V upgrades to the Town Hall.
- Communicated with the County Parks Department re. improvements to the Lawton Center tennis courts.
- Continued asphalt and concrete repairs.
- Continued oversight of WSSC infrastructure repairs.
- Worked with Centennial Committee and Community Relations Committee on special events.

STAFF REPORT

II-A

TO: Town Council
FR: Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
RE: Salo, 4111 Rosemary Street, Front Yard Fence
DATE: June 13, 2018

Samu and Hanna Salo, 4111 Rosemary Street, propose to install a fence in their front yard adjacent to Stanford Street. Town building regulations prohibit front yard fences; therefore, a variance is required.

The portion of the fence adjacent to the Stanford Street property line is proposed to be an alternating board fence measuring 4 feet in height. This portion of the fence is proposed to be located 14 inches behind the sidewalk and will be constructed on either side of a large Beech tree on the front property line.

The portion of the fence along the property line shared with 4114 Stanford Street is proposed to be an alternating board fence measuring 6 feet in height. A portion of this fence will replace an existing fence of the same height on the shared property line.

Background:

As of June 5, the Town has received one letter from a resident, opposing the request.

Staff note: The following assertions summarize materials provided by the applicant in support of the variance request. Their inclusion in the Staff Report does not intend to convey staff support for the approval or denial of the variance request. The applicant should indicate to the Council if any arguments have been misrepresented. Council should consider the entire record in considering the variance request.

Applicants' Claims for the Variance Request:

1. The applicants' property is unusually shaped. It is a through lot that fronts on two streets and does not have a rear yard.
2. Approval of the variances is requested because conforming to the Town's building ordinance would be impossible. The applicants do not have a rear yard that can be legally fenced.
3. Approval of the variance would not detrimental to the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties. The fence will not be high and will not disrupt the architecture of the neighborhood.
4. The request is the minimum necessary to overcome the exceptional condition that is causing the hardship. The applicants are requesting a lower fence than they initially desired to minimize the impact to surrounding properties.
5. The improvements do not impair the general plan of the Town. The general plan of the Town should allow homeowners to enjoy their property. The proposed fence is consistent with other neighboring fences.

III-A

To: Town Council – Town of Chevy Chase

From: David B. Eason - Chair, Town of Chevy Chase Public Services Committee

Re: PSC Recommendation on Revised Speed Hump Policy

Date: June 13, 2018

In the fall of 2017, the Town Council tasked the Public Services Committee (PSC) with reviewing and recommending updates to the Town's speed hump policy. The PSC reviewed the Village of Chevy Chase's speed hump policy and also retained the services of Joe Cutro, PE, the Town's traffic engineer, to assist the committee in evaluating the policy. After several months of debate and meetings on the topic, a revised speed hump policy was developed and forwarded to the Town office with the PSC recommendation that it be adopted.

Under the current policy, a request for a new speed hump can be originated by any three households in Town. Upon receipt of a request, the policy dictates that the Town commission a speed and volume study of traffic along the block where the speed hump is requested. These traffic studies are fairly expensive, and the Town has found that the traffic speed and volume thresholds to warrant speed hump installation are never met, though the policy allows the Town to proceed with a public hearing if the Council finds that there are significant mitigating factors in support of the request.

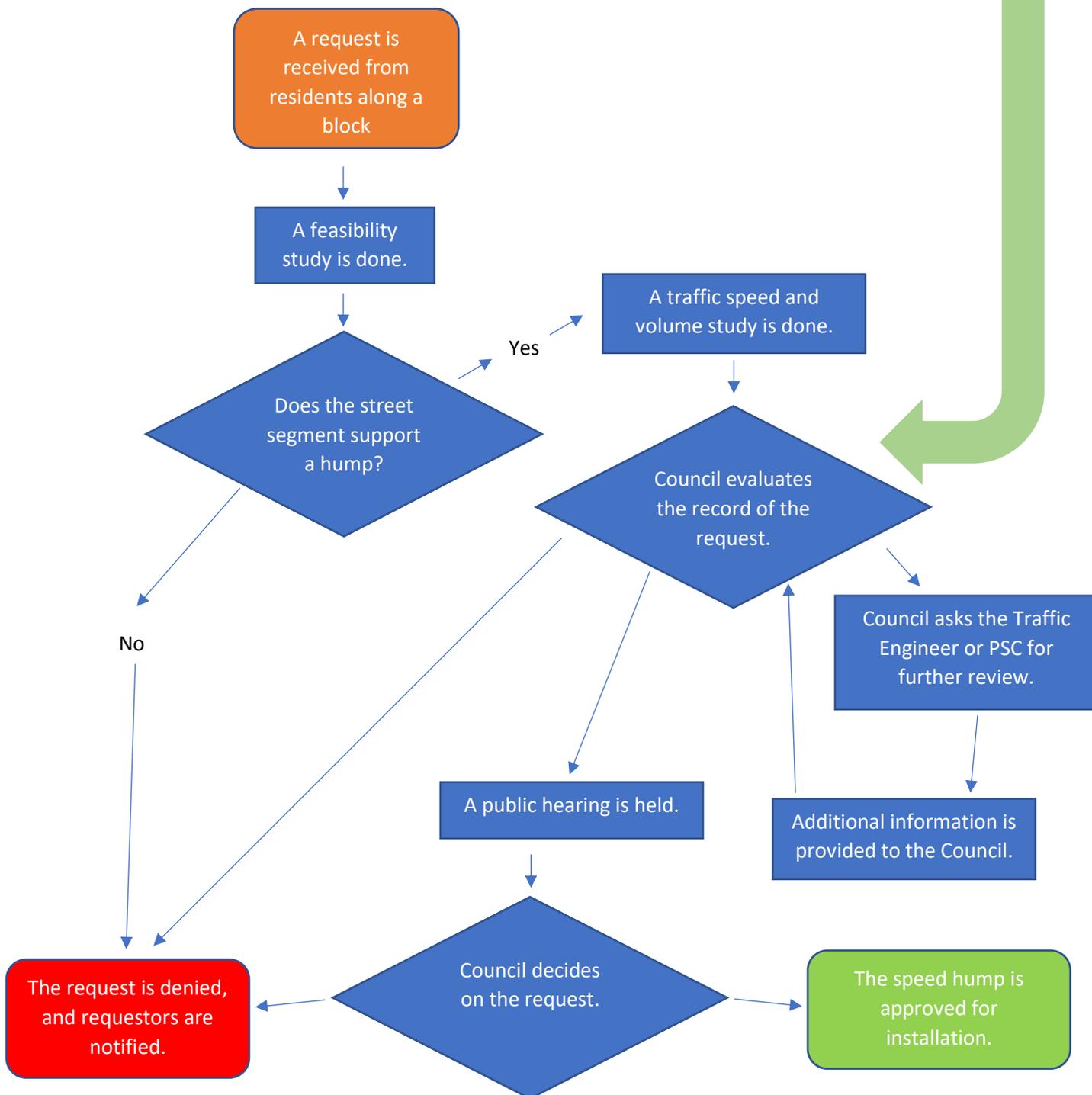
The PSC reviewed the current speed and volume thresholds (a minimum of 120 vehicles per day exceeding 30 mph OR a minimum of 20 vehicles exceeding 30 mph during any hour of the day) and recommends that they be retained. This is consistent with the recommendation of the Town's traffic engineer, whose report is attached.

The PSC recommends other changes to the policy to better ensure that speed humps are appropriate for certain Town street segments and desired by a majority of residents of a block prior to commissioning the speed and volume study. The major changes include:

- Requiring speed humps requests from residents to be made by a petition supported by at least 60% of the block (currently any three households can request a speed hump on any street).
- Clarifying that speed humps requested by schools/parks are preliminarily evaluated by the Council before feasibility and traffic studies are done.
- Detailing specific location guidelines for speed hump feasibility (the current language is not specific as to required distances from intersections, distance between speed humps, etc.).
- Requiring the feasibility study to be done *before* a speed and volume study to make sure the street segment is appropriate for a speed hump (currently done after the speed and volume study). If the engineer finds that there is no appropriate location for a speed hump, the request is denied.

A copy of the revised policy is attached.

Staff note: Under both the current and proposed policy, the Council is tasked with deciding whether to proceed with a public hearing on a speed hump request following a review of the complete record. Given that the Town has not found that the requisite speed and volume data are typically met, the Council may wish to consider either: holding a public hearing on all requests once the traffic studies are completed, or having the staff automatically deny the request if the speed and volume study does not support speed humps. This would eliminate a decision point for the Council and make the policy clearer.



III-B

To: Town Council – Town of Chevy Chase

From: David B. Eason - Chair, Town of Chevy Chase Public Services Committee

Re: PSC Recommendation on Neighborhood Watch Program

Date: June 13, 2018

In November of 2016, the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) was transferred from the Community Relations Committee to the Public Services Committee. At that time, the PSC began an evaluation of status of the NWP to see if it was still working or if changes needed to be made. In the spring of 2017, the PSC asked the Town office to reach out to the current Block Captains to gauge their interest in continuing to serve in that role. Only seven responses were received from residents. In the fall of 2017, the PSC discussed if the program was still viable in light of current available technologies (iPhones, security cameras, social media, Town Crier, Alert TOCC, etc.) for keeping up with crime prevention in the Town. At the beginning of 2018, notices were run in the Forecast in January, February and March seeking resident volunteers to serve as block captains for the NWP and asking them to contact the PSC Chair if they were interested in serving. Six (6) residents responded to me.

It is the recommendation of the PSC that there is insufficient interest among residents to continue the NWP. We recommend that we discontinue the program but leave the NWP signage in place. We should thank those residents who have served (currently or in the past) for their service. We will continue to remind residents that Town emergency notifications, crime alerts and crime prevention materials will continue to be provided to all residents to reduce crime, increase safety and to improve the quality of life for all Town residents.