

**West Mt. Airy Neighbors
Community Meeting on Traffic and Parking Issues at the
Intersection of Greene Street and Carpenter Lane
Thursday, August 24, 2006
Summit Presbyterian Church**

NOTES

The meeting was facilitated by **Richard Gilbertie**, West Mt. Airy Neighbors' (WMAN's) Vice President for Physical Resources. **Mark Washington** represented the Philadelphia Streets Department and **Clayton Lane** represented PhillyCareShare.

Clayton Lane made a presentation about **PhillyCarShare** and asked for the input of neighbors regarding the idea of having a dedicated parking place near Weavers Way Coop for their newest car in Mt. Airy. He made the point that having a PhillyCarShare car in a neighborhood actually reduces the number of cars in the area, as people reduce the number of cars they own and depend upon PhillyCarShare or do not purchase a car in the first place.

Several neighbors raised concerns about the addition of the PhillyCarShare car as well as an unwillingness to have the car parked close to the Coop as that area is already congested. Several people volunteered to help Clayton Lane come up with a solution which would be acceptable to a larger group of people: Lane took their contact information.

Richard Gilbertie then reviewed a number of potential solutions to the parking and traffic challenges to this intersection which had been surfaced at the last community meeting about this subject, in June, 2005. These included:

Make the 600 block of Carpenter one way running from Greene to Sherman: Mark Washington of the Streets Department noted that 70% of the residents would have to agree to this. If that number agreed, the request would be forwarded to Councilwoman Miller's office, the City would conduct a routine study, and City Council would pass an ordinance designating the change. After an 8-month trial period, the designation would become permanent as long as there were no objections. It was noted that at that June 2005 meeting a member of the Henry School Home and School Association said they would support such a move. However, a resident of that block presented a traffic study he had done which concluded that this would not improve matters. There seemed to be little interest on the part of the residents on the block to pursue this suggestion.

Permit or metered parking: In order to obtain permit parking so that only residents can park without time restrictions, most residents of that block have to agree to go along with it. Residents would be entitled to obtain parking permits (at a cost of \$40 per year, up to two per household). The 6900 block of Greene Street might pursue this option. The

neighbors on this block were urged to get in touch with WMAN if they wish to move forward with this.

Parking on the west side of Greene St. between Carpenter Lane and Lincoln Drive:

Currently parking is permitted only on the east side of Greene below Carpenter. Mark Washington noted that a majority of residents would need to support this change. He noted that Greene Street is not wide enough here to accommodate parking on both sides as well as a line in the middle of the street. It was noted that the Fire Department has long opposed parking on both sides of the street at this point. Summit Church had asked that the parking on Greene be moved to the west side of the street, with time-limited parent drop-off parking on the east side of the street, and was turned down.

Enforce existing parking restrictions on the west side of Greene near Carpenter: It was noted that drivers regularly park illegally on the west side of the street. Better enforcement of these parking rules would help alleviate congestion at the intersection.

Teacher Parking: It was noted that it would be beneficial if Henry School teachers would disperse around the neighboring blocks more. Shelly Brick, a neighbor and head of Summit Day Care, offered to help with the school on this issue.

Henry School Parking Limits: It was noted that school lets out at 3:00 pm, but no parking is allowed around the school until 4:30. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have this restriction moved back even by one half hour.

Action Steps:

1. When PhillyCarShare identifies a specific location for its car, WMAN will facilitate a meeting with neighbors on that block to determine whether the block will support the addition of a dedicated parking spot.
2. WMAN will convene a small group to work with Caren Trantas, principal of Henry School, to work on issues regarding the school and parking.