



Founded 1749

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2020 / 5:00PM / TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baio	Absent (arrived towards the end of the second interview)
Ms. Duarte	Present
Mr. Monaghan	Present
Mr. Orlins	Present
Mayor Neibart	Present

Also, present:

John Mills, Township Attorney
Bob Casey, Township Administrator
Maria F. Coppinger, Township Clerk

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Daily Record and Observer Tribune on June 2, 2020. Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Orlins seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.
All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

Jack Curtis – 4 Michael Road – spoke on the need for new street signs since the current street signs are difficult to read or see. Mr. Curtis provided a sample of a new street sign and noted it would cost about \$16,000 to provide the entire township with new street signs which is an inexpensive way to make an improvement; a bid in the amount of \$120,000 was received several years ago to replace and repair the existing street signs. Documentation attached hereto.

Mr. Orlins moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to close the meeting to the public.
All members present voted to close the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

2020-117 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Personnel Matter / Business Administrator Position

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

The Township Committee adjourn into Executive Session at 5:11PM.

The Township Committee reconvened into the regular portion of the meeting at 7:00

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Monaghan moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.
All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion to close the meeting to the public.
All members present voted to close the public session.

ADJOURN at 7:04PM

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Monaghan.
All members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 08/14/2020
Approved: 08/25/2020

Maria F. Coppinger
Township Clerk

Time for Some New Signs?

- Inexpensive - very reasonable cost for the signs!

- Minimal installation required - can utilize existing cement posts!

- Greatly enhanced sign visibility - highly reflective!

- Meets federal sign standards that are not currently being met!

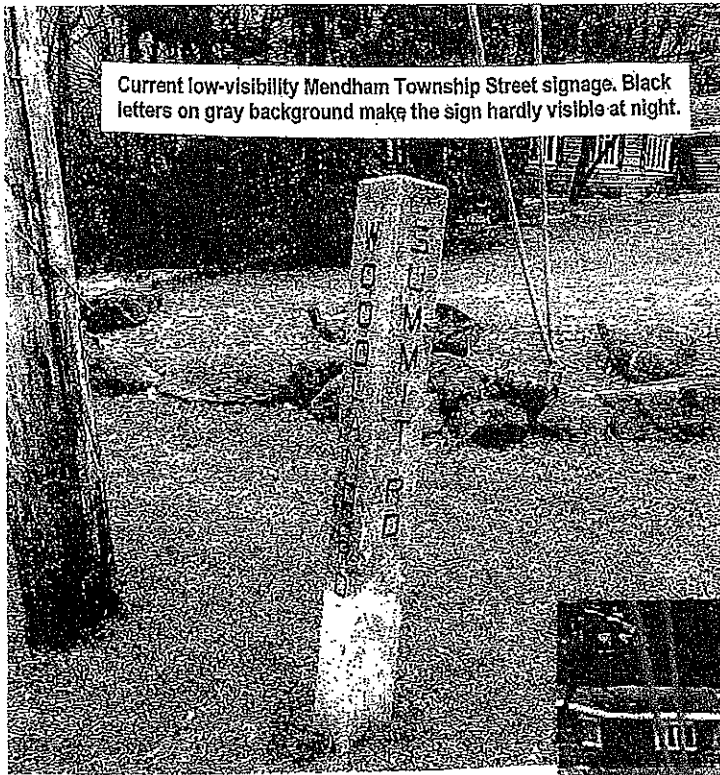
- Absolutely more aesthetically pleasing than the current cement posts!

- There seems to be absolutely no downside to installing new, highly reflective, aesthetically pleasing, much more visible street signs in Mendham Township!



AS IT
COULD BE!

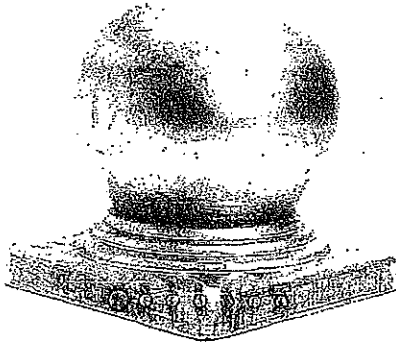
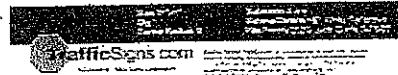
AS IT
IS!



Current low-visibility Mendham Township Street signage. Black letters on gray background make the sign hardly visible at night.

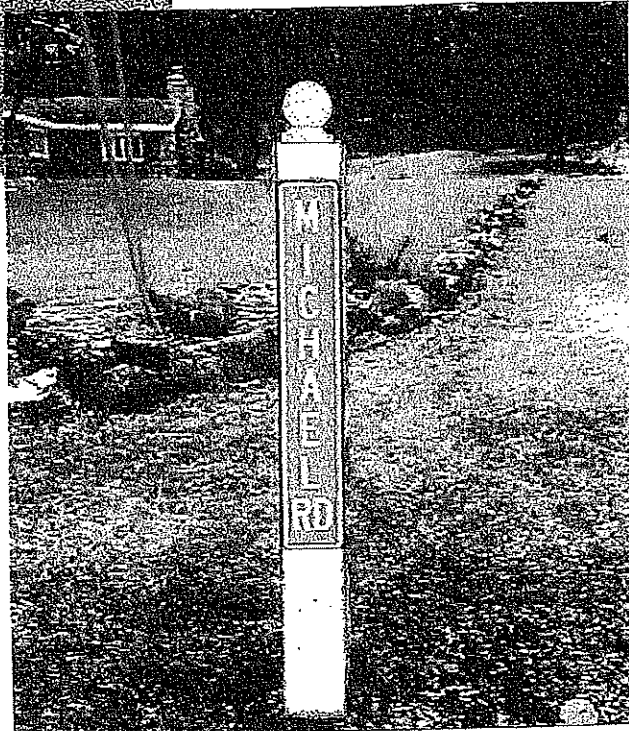


This 36" x 6" highly reflective sign costs \$24.60 from Traffic Signs.com.



Banggood 100mm Iron Ball Top Fence Finial Post Cap with Flat Square Base Decor Protection

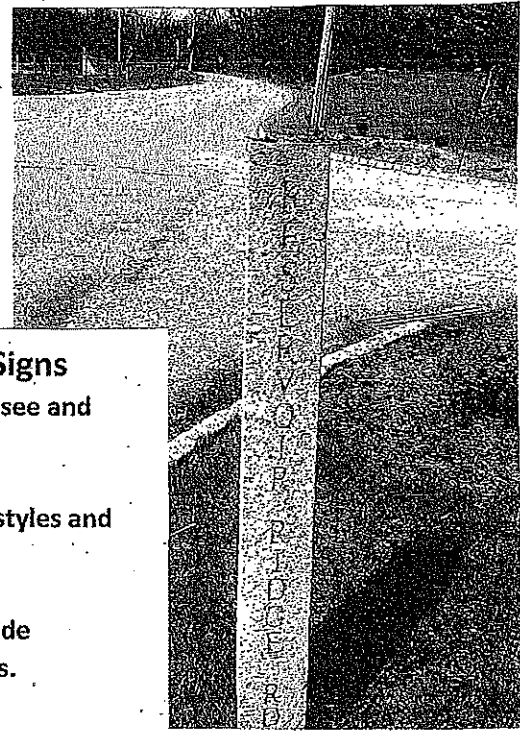
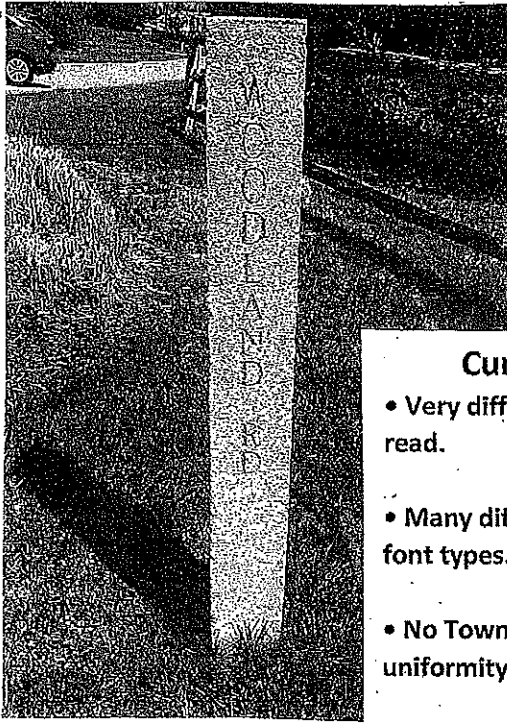
This 1000 mm decorative iron ball finial costs \$6.11 from USA Banggood. It could easily be placed on top of each post to improve the appearance.



Proposed new signage using the existing cement posts with the new 36" x 6" highly reflective signs attached. Existing cement posts could easily be painted white to improve overall appearance.

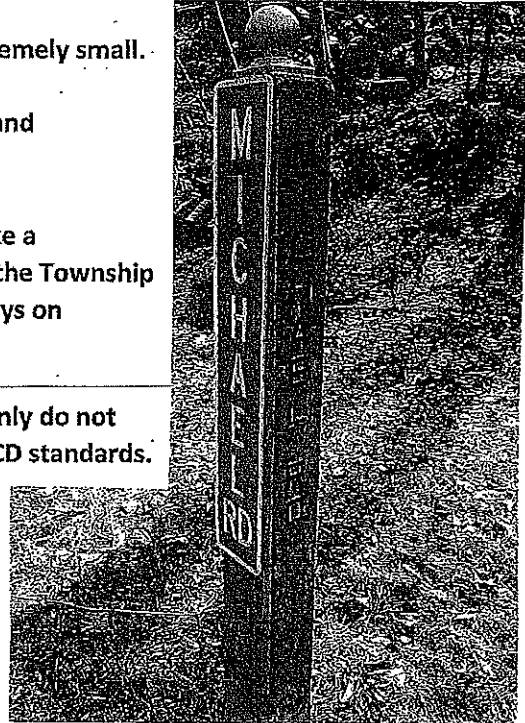
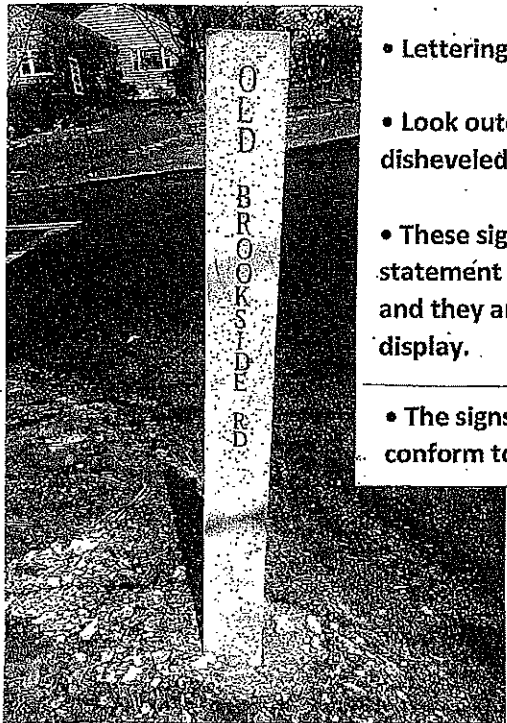
Possible plan for procuring new street signs for Mendham Township.

- There are 168 Cement street signposts in the Township with street names on the posts that are very difficult to read! (Black print on a gray background)
- There are street names on all four sides of each of the **168 posts**. $4 \times 168 = 672$ street names that need a sign.
- The 36 x 6" vertical street signs that are pictured in the attached photograph are \$24.60 per sign with a discount from Traffic Signs.Com sign company. The signs are reflective and have a green background with white lettering. They are highly visible and conform to all of the federal sign visibility standards.
- The signs would fit perfectly on the present 5' x 6" cement posts eliminating the need and cost for a new poles and brackets.
- At \$24.60 per sign, it would cost **\$16,531** to put **672** new signs on the four sides of each of the existing **168** posts.
- All of the existing cement poles could be painted bright white to improve the aesthetic appearance.
- The new vertical signs could then be attached to the cement poles with screws and lead anchors. Screws that cannot be removed without a special tool can be used to eliminate sign theft.
- A decorative finial (See attached picture) could be attached to the top of each cement post to make it look a bit more aesthetically pleasing. The finial shown costs \$6.11.
- I was told that a number of years ago the town got bids for new signs and poles. The price tag was \$120,000 for signage for the entire town.
- This repurposing of the existing sign poles would cost approximately **\$16,531**. If you add the **\$6.11** decorative tops (**\$1,026**) the total cost would come to **\$17,557** to improve the signage and bring it up to the federal code for visibility for street signs. That would be **\$102,443** less than the cost projected to do the job years ago.
- There is substantial unspent money in the DPW budget due to the mild winter we experienced. Money for overtime for plowing, sanding and salting and the money that was allocated for sand and salt that was unspent, could be utilized to purchase the signs to not only improve safety for individuals attempting to find a particular street after dark but also to improve the town aesthetics by transforming the unsightly cement posts into more attractive sign stanchions. If the new signs last only 10 years (I'm sure that the anticipated life of these signs is much longer than 10 years) it would mean that the cost per year over that time period would be \$1,755 per year. Not a very expensive proposition to dramatically increase the visibility of the 672 street signs in Mendham Township.
- I hope you will give this request some consideration and will hopefully procure the new signs for the 168 cement posts that currently are inadequate as far as visibility is concerned and do not meet federal sign standards.



Current Signs

- Very difficult to see and read.
- Many different styles and font types.
- No Township-wide uniformity of signs.
- No reflectivity.
- Lettering is extremely small.
- Look outdated and disheveled.
- These signs make a statement about the Township and they are always on display.
- The signs certainly do not conform to MUTCD standards.



Are Your Street Name Signs MUTCD Compliant? Here's What You Should Know

There are more than 4 million miles of road in the United States, according to data published by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). To help drivers navigate these roads, community developers use signs displaying the respective street's name. While all street name signs feature the name of the street, though, developers must ensure that their signs comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Otherwise, the local municipality may force the developer to take them down. So, how do you know if your street name signs are MUTCD compliant?

What is the MUTCD?

Available for free on the [FHWA's official website](#), the MUTCD is a document containing the design and usage specifications of all street signs, traffic signals and surface markings. Among other things, it lists specific colors, fonts, shapes and formatting to which street signs must adhere. As a developer, it's important that you comply with these requirements when choosing street name signs for your community.

Reflectivity

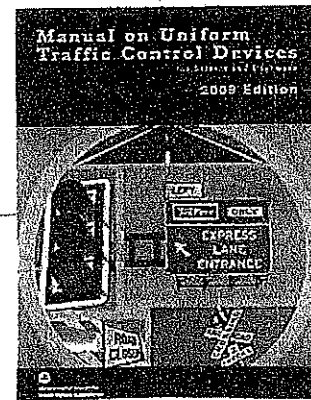
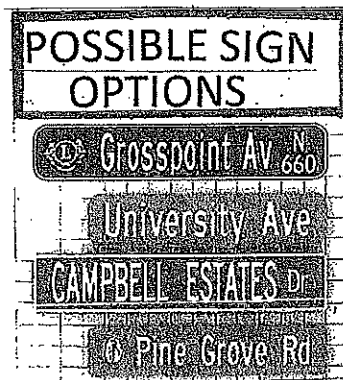
The FHWA updated the MUTCD in December 2007 to include new [reflectivity requirements for street signs](#). The purpose of these requirements is to improve nighttime visibility for drivers and lower the risk of collision. According to the FHWA, only 25% of road travel occurs at night, but nighttime driving is responsible for roughly half of all vehicle accidents. Under the newly revised MUTCD, all street signs must feature a minimum maintain retroreflectivity level — a rule that applies to street name signs and guide signs as well.

Combination of Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

In the past, street name signs in the United States were typically designed with all uppercase letters, such as "MAIN ST." But the FHWA updated the MUTCD yet again in 2009 to change this formatting. Now, all street name signs must feature a combination of both uppercase and lowercase letters. The first letter of the street name should be uppercase, with the proceeding letters all being lowercase, such as "Main St." The FHWA says that street name signs featuring a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters are easier for drivers to read than those featuring all uppercase letters.

Minimum 4.5-Inch Lowercase Letters and 6-Inch Uppercase Letters

When it introduced the specification requiring a combination of lowercase and uppercase letters, the FHWA included height requirements for the letters of street name signs. Specifically, lowercase letters must be at least 4.5 inches tall, and uppercase letters must be at least 6 inches tall. The only exception is street signs for two-lane streets with a maximum speed limit of 25 mph, in which case lowercase letters must be at least 3 inches tall, and uppercase letters must be at least 4 inches tall.



Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) is a document issued by the [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) of the [United States Department of Transportation](#) (USDOT) to specify the standards by which [traffic signs](#), [road surface markings](#), and [signals](#) are designed, installed, and used. These specifications include the shapes, colors, and fonts used in road markings and signs. In the [United States](#), all traffic control devices must legally conform to these standards. The manual is used by state and local agencies as well as private construction firms to ensure that the traffic control devices they use conform to the national standard. While some state agencies have developed their own sets of standards, including their own MUTCDs, these must substantially conform to the federal MUTCD.

The National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) advises the FHWA on additions, revisions, and changes to the MUTCD.