

BRICK VS. PAVEMENT

Afterglow Way not unsafe

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Following Monday evening's community meeting on the fate of Afterglow Way's surface, 3rd Ward Township Councilman Sean Spiller said that he came away with one key takeaway.

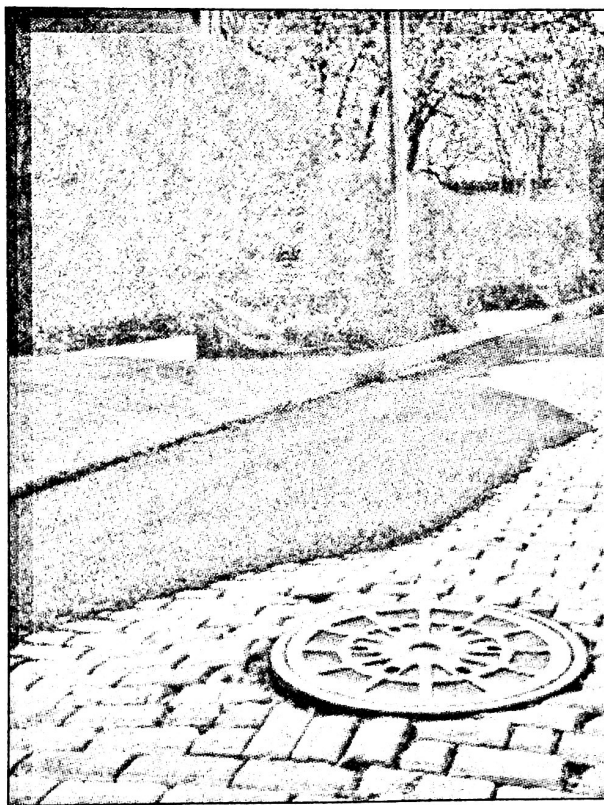
"I don't think we have to pave it," Spiller told *The Times*.

As reported in *The Montclair Times*, Afterglow Way residents have attended Township Council meetings and the most recent 3rd Ward community meeting to voice their concerns over the future of their brick-paved road. Several residents, in particular, have voiced their displeasure that a fellow resident, Thomas O'Beirne, paved over a portion of the road in front of his home. O'Beirne has said that the paving was an emergency measure.

The traffic safety of pavement versus brick has also been questioned.

This past Monday, more than 30 residents attended the meeting in the Municipal Building, Spiller said, along with Township Manager Marc Dashield, Police Chief David Sabagh, Acting Fire Chief John Herrmann and Community Services Director Steve Wood.

As has been the case in past meetings, Spiller said that the majority of residents spoke in favor of retaining the street's brick



STAFF PHOTO BY GEORGE WIRT

Brick meets blacktop in the middle of Afterglow Way, on Tuesday, April 22.

surface.

Spiller said that reports from the police and fire officials indicated that road isn't inherently unsafe. Firefighters' concerns with the road-

way, according to Spiller, have more to do with the road's width than its surface. As with other similarly steep streets, police monitor Afterglow Way and close it during severe weather, the councilman noted.

Comparing Afterglow Way to roads of similar inclines, Wood provided data showing that Afterglow Way is below average in terms of traffic accidents. The debate, Spiller said, is not comparing brick to pavement, but in factoring in traffic data and the potential that, given the street's slope and width, motorists travel slower.

While safety and resident input is important, the next step will be to examine the cost of maintaining the brick roadway. Portions of the street are sunk in, Spiller observed. If remedial work can be done for \$30,000 or less, Spiller said that the street then may be considered in next year's road improvement cycle.

Spiller said that he will present the gathered information during the council's next conference meeting on Tuesday, June 10. If his fellow councilmembers agree that the road should remain unpaved, Spiller said that he will then work with Dashield to set up how O'Beirne will restore the brick road.

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