



# **STREET NAMING POLICY AND GUIDELINES IN BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP**

## **ADDENDUM TO THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP CIRCULATION ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN**

**ADOPTED:**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2010**

# **Bridgewater Township Planning Board**

**Chairman Alan Fross**

**Mayor Patricia Flannery**

**Councilman Howard Norgalis**

**Former Councilman Robert Albano**

**N. Janine Dickey**

**Barbara Kane**

**Joanne Kane**

**Steve Rodzinak**

**Glenn Petillo**

## **Professional Advisors:**

**Robert C. Bogart, PE, Board Engineer**

**Thomas Collins, Esq. Board Attorney**

**Scarlett Doyle, PP, Board Planner**

## **Street Naming Committee:**

**Barbara Kane**

**N. Janine Dickey**

**Andrew Leven**

## **Authorization of Names**

The name or number to be given to any road, street, avenue, plaza, park site or to any other public place will be authorized and passed by the governing body of Bridgewater Township by resolution with the advice of the Planning Board. The local citizens will have an opportunity to be heard, and after the reading at a public township meeting, it will become official and permanent. The Town council will forward the document to the Planning Board for inclusion in the Circulation Element of the Master Plan.

## **Promulgation of List of Appropriate Names**

A list of particular persons, places, things or historical events will be accepted from local organizations, religious orders, patriotic organizations, Historical Commission, and from any individual citizen of Bridgewater Township, and after careful study and consideration by the governing body, a list will be selected of the most practical and worthy names to be adopted by the governing body.

The Planning Board or Planning Board Office will oversee and coordinate the list of submitted street names.

## **Criteria for Names**

### **A. Names**

The name of a particular person to be selected may be of a Bridgewater resident who has made exceptional contributions to the betterment of the township. It may also be a renowned name of fame and honor or a great name in literature, science, mathematics, art or music.

### **B. Places**

The names of places may be such names as American cities, states, counties and villages or names where a historical event took place and names of our local historical places.

### **C. Things**

The names of things may be such things as trees, flowers and others with a simple pronunciation.

### **D. Location**

In assessing the appropriateness of a proposed street name, consideration should be given to its geographic location and compatibility with surrounding street names.

## **Policy for Street Naming in Bridgewater Township**

### **List of Street Names**

The Planning Department shall keep and make available the approved list of street names. Any applicant proposing to name a street shall use the names on the Bridgewater street names list.

Any time the Township shall name a street, a name from the Bridgewater street names list will be used.

### **Streets Recommended for Renaming**

The 2005 Master Plan identified numerous roads with a recommendation to rename them to eliminate potential errors in providing emergency services.

#### The following streets were at issue:

#### Reason for issue:

Aaron Court	This is phonetically similar to Erin Court.
Edgewood Terrace/Edgewood Drive	The street names are too similar.
Eisenhower Avenue	The street is divided into multiple non-connecting parts.
Juniper Lane	The road is bisected by a free-standing barrier.
Miller Lane	There are two locations in the Township. One is off Washington Valley Rd. and the other is off Foothill Rd.
Prospect Street	The two sections will never connect.
Washington Avenue/ Washington Road/ Woodland Terrace	There is currently confusion at the intersection due to the way that they meet and one road ends and the other begins.
Wayne Avenue / Wayne Road	The street names are too similar.
Whitney Drive	Conflict with Whitney Court East.

## Policy for Street Naming in Bridgewater Township

Following is a list of historic names that are appropriate for naming streets:

Name	Historic Background
<b>Bellis</b>	An old name in the community; was the chief of police in Somerville when Somerville police serviced Bridgewater
<b>Blumberg</b>	Len and Adele Blumberg were named Citizens of the Year by Somerset County Chamber of Commerce in 1998. Mr. Blumberg was president of Somerset Bar Association and Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education. He was Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary. Mrs. Blumberg served for 25 years on the township Welfare Board and worked with her husband for over 25 years in multiple capacities for the betterment of the township. They were Honorary Board members of the Education Foundation for the school district and founding members of the Temple Sholom in Bridgewater.
<b>Coejeman</b>	A family from the Revolutionary time whose house was used as a meeting place for soldiers; were in Bridgewater since 1749
<b>Greene</b>	Major General Nathaniel Greene worked with Washington during the second encampment of the Revolutionary War; had his headquarters at the Van Veghten House in Finderne
<b>Langon</b>	Former Bridgewater Mayor
<b>McMurray</b>	John McMurray was the president of Calco Chemical. He was involved in the restoring the Van Horn House; studied history as a student at Princeton University. Brought “planning” to Bridgewater in 1936; is the Father of Planning of Bridgewater
<b>Schofield</b>	Family name dates back to the 1920s; family owned the original Chimney Rock Inn (which located in the area of the current Inn)

# **TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER GUIDELINES FOR NAMING STREETS WITHIN SUBDIVISION PLATS AND SITE PLANS**

The naming of any public or private street within Township of Bridgewater must comply with the street naming standards. During the subdivision review process, the Township reviews street names. The Subdivision and Site Plan Ordinance requires that duplicate and/or similar street names are prohibited and continuity with existing streets is to be maintained. Additional criteria for street names have been established based on street length, width, and other characteristics.

## **STREET NAMES**

- A. New streets in subdivisions shall be named to provide continuity of names with existing streets and to prevent conflict with identical or similarly spelled or pronounced names in other parts of the planning jurisdiction.
- B. An applicant may suggest a street name. Approval of a street name by the Township's 911 computer mapping division is required before a final plat may be approved.

## **NAMING STREETS**

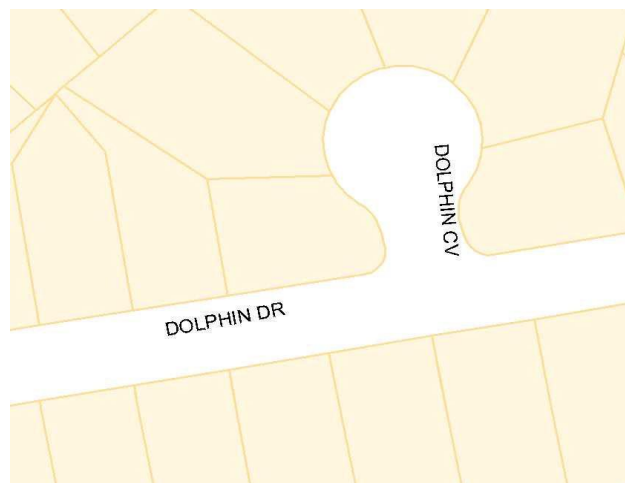
Each street name must consist of at least two parts:

- 1. Primary Name
- 2. Street suffix (type)

Example: FAIRWEATHER COURT

FAIRWEATHER	Primary Name
COURT	Street Suffix

- Please keep the primary name of the street under 20 characters long to avoid oversized street signs.
- Each Primary name should be used only once within a subdivision with the exception that one cul-de-sac may use the same name as a street it intersects (see figure 1).



- No special characters (dashes, apostrophes, periods, slashes, etc) may be used. A space will replace the special character
- Only numbered streets and highways use numerals (2<sup>nd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, FM 2244). Do not use numbers spelled out in street names.

Example: FORTY-TWO THOUSAND PENNIES DRIVE

42000 PENNIES DRIVE  
42 THOUSAND PENNIES DRIVE

- Pre-Directionals such as NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST may not be used unless the street crosses over a state or federal roadway.
- Do not combine directionals with other words to create street names.

Example: SOUTHLANDS BLVD  
SOUTH LANDS BLVD

Streets in new subdivisions must continue the theme of names of existing streets on adjoining plats. It is only acceptable for a street to change names if it crosses a major arterial or highway. A major arterial is defined as a street that is a moderate or high-capacity road. Streets within residential subdivisions are not considered major arterials.

### **STREET TYPES**

A street type is used to describe the characteristics of a street. Street types may not be used in place of or within a street name. Any street using a street type within the street name will be rejected.

Example: SHADY HOLLOW COURT  
HOLLOW and COURT are both considered street types, and so this processed name should be rejected.

Below is a list of street types acceptable by the Township of Bridgewater

<b>Street Type</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Street Type</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
<u>Major roads</u>		<u>Named for their shape</u>	
Avenue	Ave	Circle	Cir
Boulevard	Blvd	Crescent	Cres
Road	Rd	Loop	Loop
Street	St	Hill	Hill
<u>Culs-de-sac</u>			
Court	Ct		
Place	Pl		

List of street types acceptable by the Township of Bridgewater - *continued*

<b>Street Type</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Street Type</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
<u>Small Roads</u>		<u>Named for their function</u>	
Alley	Aly	Approach	Appr
Drive	Dr	Plaza	Plz
Fairway	Fairway	Promenade	Promenade
Gardens	Gdns	Bypass	Byp
Gate	Gate		
Grove	Grv		
Heights	Hts		
Knoll	Knoll		
Lane	Ln		
Terrace	Ter		
Trail	Trl		
View	Vw		
Way	Way		

Certain Streets require specific street type designators

- COURT, COVE, or PLACE, may only be used for cul-de-sacs.
- Cul-de-sacs are only intersected by one street and do not provide through access (see figure 2 and figure 3)

Figure 2

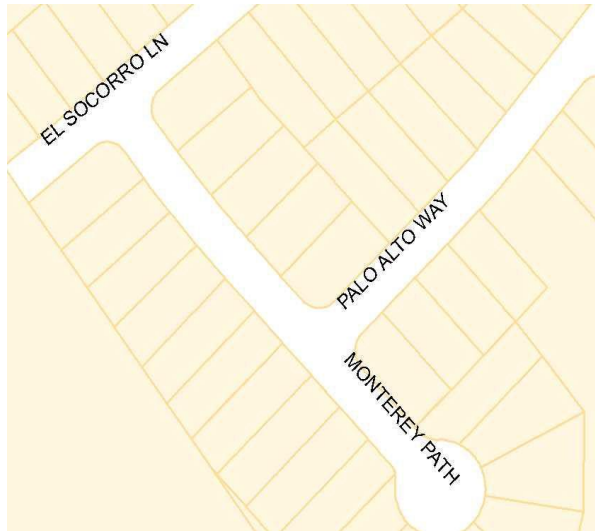
MEDITERRA PLACE is a cul-de-sac





Figure 3

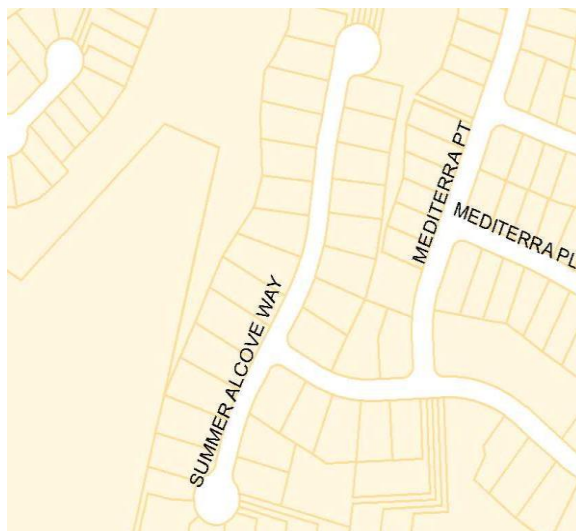
MONTEREY PATH is not a cul-de-sac



- Streets opposite each other that end in a cul-de-sac should have the same name with a non cul-de-sac street type (see figure 4)

Figure 4

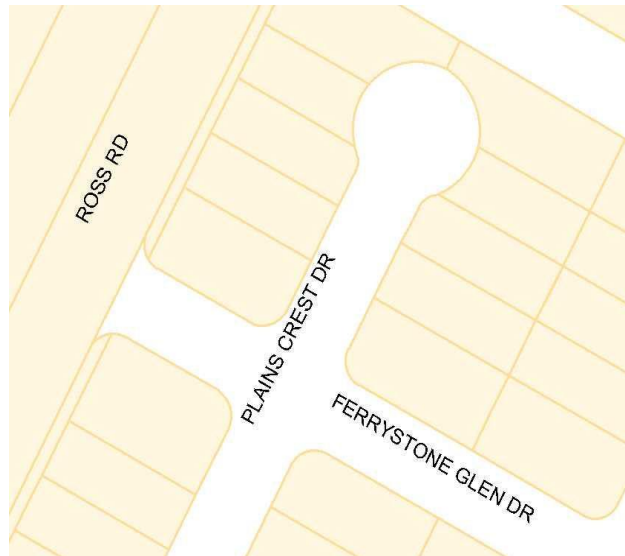
SUMMER ALCOVE WAY is not a cul-de-sac



- A street that intersects another and continues into a cul-de-sac should not change name or street type and is not considered a cul-de-sac (see figure 5)

Figure 5

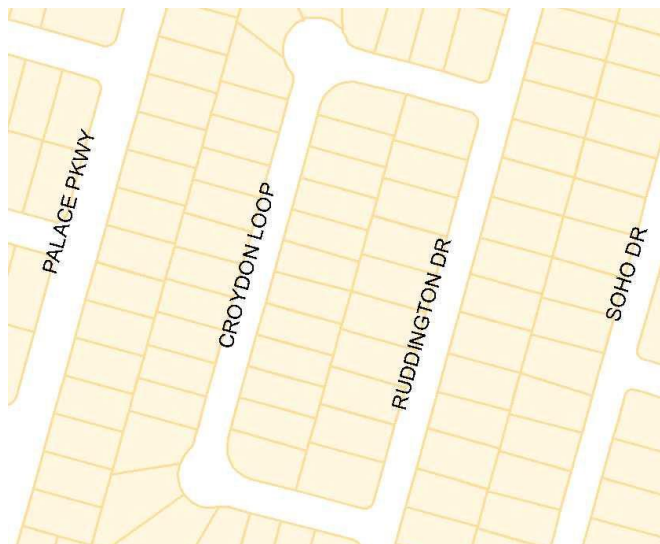
PLAINS CREST DRIVE does not change name or street type



- LOOP or CIRCLE may be used for streets that loop or bend (see figure 6)

Figure 6

CROYDON LOOP



BOULEVARD can only be used for streets with a right-of-way greater than 90 feet in width; however these streets are not limited to this street type.

### **RESERVING STREET NAMES**

Developers may submit street names for review and reservation. Reserving street names allows the developer to pre-approve street names and reserve them for their use. This process prevents other new developments from using duplicate street names. Street names will only be reserved for up to two years. After the time frame has expired, the street name will be released for use unless it is reserved again.

Developers must contact the Township's Planning Department directly for reservation of approved street names for all public streets, private streets, driveways, or easements.

The following list of considerations should be taken into account when reviewing and requesting street names:

- Street name duplication and phonetic duplications
- Reserved street names
- Street types
- Existing streets in adjoining plats (street name continuity)
- Streets in adjoining plats not yet recorded (street name continuity)
- Jurisdiction
- Proximity to a similarly sounding street name

### **Duplicates**

A street name is considered a duplicate if an existing street shares the same street name. Number of words, spaces, spelling differences and street types do not make the street name unique.

Example:      SUN RAY LANE  
                  SUN RAY TRAIL (duplicate)  
                  SUN RAE LANE (phonetic duplicate)  
                  SUNRAE LANE (duplicate despite number of words)  
                  SON RAE LANE (phonetic duplicate)

### **Modifiers**

A modifier is an extra word added to a street name to make it more unique. This is useful when a street name is considered a duplicate

Example: CANARY CT is a duplicate.

Suggested modifiers:

YELLOW      YELLOW CANARY CT (not a duplicate)  
CAGE          CANARY CAGE CT (not a duplicate)  
                  SINGING CANARY CT (not a duplicate)

## **Process for Reserving Street Names**

Please email or fax the following information to the Bridgewater Township Planning Board Office:

- List of street names with street types. You may submit more names than necessary for review, but you can only reserve a number equal to the number of streets within the subdivision or site plan, once an application is submitted.
- Location map of subdivision or site plan(required) and/or preliminary plat (preferred if available)
- Contact information
- Providing a copy of the preliminary overall plan showing the street layouts will allow for a more accurate review of street names and street types.
- During subdivision review, some previously approved street names may be rejected due to changes in street layouts, street types, spelling, or expiration of reserved street names. Adjoining plats and connecting streets may also impact street name approvals.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Bridgewater Township Planning Department  
100 Commons Way  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Phone: 908-725-6300 ext 5530  
Fax: 908-707-1235  
Email: [planning@bridgewaternj.gov](mailto:planning@bridgewaternj.gov)