

WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2015

Members Present: Chairman Bonnie Palermo, Mike Oryl, George Rehberg, Michael Polo, Sal Adorno and Constable Larry Merrill.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Bonnie Palermo.

2. Approval of Minutes: July 13, 2015:

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 13, 2015 as distributed.

3. Old Business:

a. Flat Rock Place – Right Turn from Far Right Lane Only Sign:

and:

d. Walk/Don't Walk Signal at Seaside Avenue/Boston Post Road:

Waiting to hear from the State to set up a meeting.

b. Decision of allowing Speed Bumps/Tables on Town Roads:

Material that Sal Adorno submitted last month was mailed to all members for review. Fire Chief Mike Jenkins submitted a letter dated 8/4/15 stating that the Fire Department disagrees with speed bumps being used on roads in town. A memo dated 8/10/15 was received from Director of Public Works who also stated that he does not agree with the use of speed bumps on roads in town. Chairman Palermo asked who would construct and maintain the bumps if they were installed and where is the funding going to come from. Chairman Palermo also went through the information distributed and pointed out all of her concerns. These types of things are normally found on private road and parking lots. Pete Thomas, Assistant Chief of Westbrook Ambulance Association stated that they would be concerned about equipment being jostled in the ambulances, equipment damage and patient discomfort. They do not want speed bumps on the roads in town. Larry Merrill, Westbrook Constable had not comment when called upon.

Chairman Palermo opened the floor to the public to speak. The following people spoke:

1. Gene Cieri – 164 Salt Island Road – Stated that motorcycles are very difficult to maneuver and could very well launch a person off the bike, especially a rider in back of the driver. He feels the solution to the problems is enforcement, not speed bumps.

2. RoseMary Brook – Bellstone Avenue – Stated that she feels the town needs to exhaust every other means possible before considering the installation of speed bumps. We should use the speed machine more often have increased police patrols. The Town should hire additional help for the summer months.

3. Jim Saboth – 52 Bellstone Avenue – Stated that he is a member of the Westbrook Beach Association and the Seaside Avenue and surrounding roads are crazy, so there are big concerns in the area. He feels the Board should pursue a Public Hearing to get everyone's opinion.
4. Virginia Ausanka – Post Avenue – Stated that the Board should come sit in her yard to watch the traffic, it goes by her house very fast. A lot of residents are fed up. She doesn't care about damage to vehicles or motorcycles, she feels there should be speed bumps all throughout the Seaside Avenue Area.
5. Ann Mazur – 21 Parker Lane – Stated that all beach areas have the same problems. Her beach association purchased their own speed machine and put it to good use.
6. Gary Bazzono – Uncas Road – Stated that he feels if speed bumps are placed properly they would work. But you have to set up a criteria and guidelines for where they should go and where they should not go. If speed bumps are not going to be used, some other kind of traffic calming things need to be put in place. He is in favor of installing speed bumps on certain roads in town.
7. Cathy Wininger: Dennison Road – Stated that this problem has been ongoing for 30 to 40 years and it's not going to change. Traffic Calming does not work, enforcement works. Residents need to start setting examples in their own neighborhoods. A good percentage of the offenders are residents of the area. If speed bumps are installed then people will start driving up on peoples lawns to avoid them. She stated that if speed bumps are installed on beach roads, then they need to be installed up north too.

Chairman Palermo asked the Board how they would like to proceed. Sal Adorno stated that the police can't enforce the laws 24 hours per day, but speed bumps will. They are very commonly used all over the country. He feels that Seaside Avenue is very unique compared to all other roads in town. Maybe the town isn't ready for speed bumps, but god forbid if somebody gets hurt. George Rehberg stated that this matter has come before the Board many, many times and has always been voted down. He doesn't understand why the request for speed bumps keeps being made when the Board has said "No" every time.

A motion was made by Michael Polo, and seconded by Sal Adorno, to:

Put together a public hearing to discuss speed calming issues and the use of speed bumps/humps on certain roads in town.

Discussion: George Rehberg pointed out that he was a police officer in town for years and most of the offenders are the residents. 9 times out of 10 stops were residents of the area where they were stopped.

Michael Polo stated that he thinks we should have input from more people.

Mike Oryl stated that he spoke with a Resident State Trooper at 5:00 this evening and he stated that he is totally against the use of speed bumps.

VOTE: Ayes: Michael Polo and Sal Adorno.

Nays: Bonnie Palermo, George Rehberg and Mike Oryl

The motion did not carry.

Chairman Palermo pointed out that because the motion did not carry, the Westbrook Traffic Authority will not pursue the use of speed bumps/humps in the Town of Westbrook.

First Selectman Noel Bishop stated that Troop F has reported that traffic offences go up 35-40% in the summer months, so they are aware of the issues.

Chairman Palermo stated that Mr. Bishop should look into the possibility of putting money in next years budget to hire additional seasonal police employees to help with the busy summer months.

c. Site-Line Issues - Old Clinton Road/Rail Road Bridge:

Chairman Palermo stated she still needs to contact property owner Ed Binder.

e. Drop-Off/Pick-Up Area at Westbrook Middle School:

Pat Ciccone has not made a decision as of yet.

f. Update of Revised Town Ordinance Regarding Traffic Authority Board:

Still waiting for it to go to a Town Meeting for approval.

g. Town Tickets:

Once the Town Ordinance is approved we can start setting amounts for infractions.

h. Cross walks – Seaside Avenue/Signage:

Signage needs to be put up for all the new cross walks that were installed.

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install 2 “Stop For Pedestrians In Cross Walks” signs on Seaside Avenue, one on each side of the road prior to the Coral Sands area where the new cross walks were installed.

Upon a motion by Sal Adorno, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to repaint the side walk lines on the east side of Post Avenue and the west side of Bellstone Avenue.

i. Grove Beach Road Area – Parking Issues:

After looking at the area, the Board feels that there are no issues in the area. No action was taken.

j. Sagamore Terrace Area – Signage:

As requested, Public Works removed the “Deaf Child” sign. Chairman Palermo stated that while she was reviewing the area, she watched a resident of the area go right through a “Stop” sign and then proceeded into his driveway. There are no speed limit signs in the area.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install additional speed signs on Sagamore Terrace East in the area between #56 and #70 and on the “stop” sign post at #19/27 area. To install a speed limit sign in the area of 78/86/94 on Sagamore Terrace West. To move the existing speed limit sign that is located approximately half-way between #28 & #42 on Sagamore Terrace Road to somewhere in the area of 58/68/84. To look at all signs in the area and replace any signs that need replacing.

k. Pettipaug Road – Lee Company Traffic:

Mike Oryl was requested to put the speed machine in the area to see what the results are and members were asked to continue to look at the area during the times of shift changes.

l. Chapman Mill Pond Road – No Parking:

A letter dated 8/1/15 was received from Carol Ann Tyler, a resident of Chapman Mill Pond Road that stated the only people who park there are parents who are dropping off or picking their kids up from the school buses. She would like the signs removed. If parents are picking up or dropping off, then they are “standing” not parking. Secretary Kelemen was asked to send a letter to Ms. Tyler regarding this fact.

m. Nolin Road – No Parking:

The members did not think that “No Parking” signs were needed. There was no action taken.

n. Any Other Old Business: None.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Zoning Referral – Chapman Mill Pond Open Space Parking Lot:

Secretary Kelemen was asked to send a memo to the Zoning Commission stated that this Board finds no issues at this point in time with this Zoning Application.

b. Request for Traffic Signal – Old Salt Works Road/Route 1:

An e-mail was received from Katherine Redmann of 24 Pointina Road requesting a traffic signal light at the intersection of Old Salt Works Road and Route 1 because it is so difficult to exit Old Salt Works Road onto Route 1. All members were asked to go look at the area. Ms. Redmann stated that she just found out that a lot of residents exit through the Sagamore Terrace Road.

c. Approval of “Walk for Emily” – 9/12/15:

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the “Walk for Emily” event to be held on 9/12/15.

Chairman Palermo will notify Jackie Lyman that it was approved.

d. Request for Action – Dennison Road/W. Pond Meadow Road Intersection:

An e-mail was received from Al Magriz of West Pond Meadow Road dated 7/27/15. He referred to the fatal accident that occurred when a driver did not stop at Dennison Road, crossed over West Pond Meadow Road into his driveway and then hit some of his trees. He is asking that something be done about the intersection because this is not the first time that cars have ended up in his driveway. He is concerned for the safety of his family. He is recommending a “splitter island” which the Town of Guilford has started using. The answer could be signage or removing the large tree blocking the “Stop” sign. All members were asked to go look at the area so it can be discussed next month.

e. Request for “No Parking” - 36 Pioneer Road:

An e-mail was received from Betsy Gara – 36 Pioneer Road. She is requesting a “No Parking” sign at the end of the road because cars are parking there and blocking their driveway.

All members were asked to go look at the area so it can be discussed next month.

f. Request for “Dead End” or “No Outlet” sign – Salt Island Road:

An e-mail was received from Ann Mazur, President of Middle Beach Association requesting a “Dead End” sign or a “No Outlet” sign on Salt Island Road because a lot of cars come down the road and they have no choice but to turn around in private driveways. All members were asked to go look at the area so it can be discussed at next month.

g. Request for “No Parking” Enforcement – Salt Island Road:

An e-mail was received from Ann Mazur, President of Middle Beach Association requesting enforcement of the “No Parking” areas on Salt Island Road. Apparently there was an incident where someone was parked in a no parking zone and was partially blocking some ones driveway. When the police were called (twice) they would not take any action. All members were asked to go look at all the no parking areas and it will be discussed next month.

h. Any Other New Business:

1. “20 MPH” Sign – Seaside Avenue:

Mary Jane Monahan is requesting a “20 MPH” Speed Limit sign between 495 and 505 Seaside Avenue, going towards Pilots Point.

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install a “20 MPH” sign between 495 and 505 Seaside Avenue going towards Pilots Point.

2. Street Light – Tarpon Avenue:

Mary Jane Monahan stated that there are 3 street lights on both Dolphin Avenue and Striper Avenue but there are only 2 on Tarpon Avenue. She is requesting another street light on Tarpon Avenue. All members were asked to go look at the area and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. “No Parking” Signs – Striper Avenue:

Mary Jane Monahan would like the Board to look at the placement of all the “No Parking” signs and possibly make some changes. All members were asked to go look at the area and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Use of Different Types of “No Parking” signs:

Pat Marcarelli, President, West Beach Association stated that he has spoken with RST Wayne Buck and there are many different kinds of no parking signs ie: “No Parking”, “No Parking Anytime”, “No Parking This Side of Street”, “No Parking Either Side of Street”, etc. All Members were asked to look at the signs around town and discuss the possibility of making all the signs uniform throughout the Town. This will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

5. Zoning Referral – Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Regulations:

The change would be regarding fence height. Secretary Kelemen was asked to send a memo to the Zoning Commission stating the Board has no concerns at this time.

6. Request to have parking area on Salt Island Road Blocked Off – 8/22/15:

Ann Mazur, President of Middle Beach Association is requesting permission to block off the parking area on Salt Island Road for a block party on August 22, 2015.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to drop off enough wooden horses to block off 6 parking spaces in the parking area on Salt Island Road from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Mazur was also told she needed to put in a request to the Selectmen’s Office for permission.

5. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Bonnie Palermo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$105.40 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

6. Correspondence:

a. Copy of letter dated 7/29/15 from First Selectman Noel Bishop (read for the record) to Peter Parisi that stating that he will not be reappointed because of the political party ratio.

b. Copy of memo sent to RST’s with last month’s meeting requests.

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7. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary