

WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2013

Members present: Chairman Bonnie Palermo, George Rehberg, Michael Polo, Robert Brancato, Sal Adorno and Preston Pope.

Also Present: First Selectman Noel Bishop, Selectman Chris Ehlert, members of the public.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Bonnie Palermo.

2. Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2013:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013 as corrected.

3. Old Business:

a. Sports Complex and High School Parking and Travel Areas:

Chairman Palermo did walk the grounds with Superintendent of Schools Pat Ciccone. Ms. Ciccone sent a letter stating that she was going to recommend the following changes to the Board of Education at their next meeting to be held on September 10th:

- All High School and Board of Ed parking lot lines and curbs that should delineate legal parking spaces and no parking zones need to be repainted/brought back to life.
- All parking lot and roadway lines & arrows serving as directional on campus throughout the front of the High School, Side and Rear of the High School, Board of Ed Offices and all athletic fields should be painted.
- Roadways should be posted as no parking zones to allow for bus and emergency vehicle access.
- Grassy areas are considered “not parking zones” and should be posted as such where feasible, example, along McVeagh Road.
- Removal of a batting cage, no longer able to be used from the lower parking lot near the baseball field. After removal, request will be made by the traffic authority to the town to push back the brush just a bit and line out 3 or 4 more parking spaces as the space permits.
- The groundskeepers will be asked to remove a small dirt mound in the parking space nearest the athletic trailer across from the track so that the space can accommodate a vehicle. (Athletic trailer is reported to need the second space due to the size of equipment that brings it in.)

- Continue to work with the refuse service to push the dumpsters as far back as possible to create more sightline when exiting the campus from the lot adjacent to the Board of Ed offices.
- Near the Board of Ed offices, 2 handicapped accessible spaces are to be painted as such and to put up appropriate signage.

Ms. Ciccone will notify Chairman Palermo after the Board of Education meeting to let her know the results.

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Preston Pope, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to move forward with all changes, as presented, as long as the Board of Education agrees.

b. Train Station:

Chairman Palermo stated that she, along with George Rehberg and Sal Adorno, met with a gentlemen from the State and walk the area, including down town. She has noticed that some bushes have been cut back, but has not heard anything from the State. She will contact the State again.

c. Sidewalk Lines on Bellstone and Post Avenues:

Chairman Palermo stated that, after researching the matter, the first memo that went to Public Works requesting that the side walk lines be painted on Bellstone and Post Avenue, was dated 6/12/12. Chairman Palermo met with First Selectman in March, who also sent a memo to Public Works regarding the matter, as well as more memo's from this Board. A memo dated August 28, 2013 was received from John Riggio which stated that Bellstone Avenue is going to be re-paved in September and the side walk lines will be painted subsequent to the paving. There was discussion of possibly hiring private companies to do work and pay for it out of our budget. Sal Adorno will get will get references and quotes for budget purposes.

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

VOTED: Unanimously that in the future, any memo sent to Public Works with requests for signage or other items, will include a 2 week completion date from the date of the memo.

Selectman Chris Ehlert commended the Board on the work they do, because it is tough making some of the decisions that are necessary. He feels that 2 years of requesting something to be done is unacceptable. There has to be equity of how things are done.

Secretary Kelemen stated in Mr. Riggio's defense, he was on vacation for 2 weeks when the memo was sent to him. He did take care of many of the items requested on the memo as soon as he returned.

Selectman Ehlert stated that some of these items not being done could result in a serious liability to the Town.

George Rehberg stated that he spoke with Mr. Riggio, who stated that he has tried to put up the "Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk" signs along Seaside Avenue and the property owner tell him to take them down because they don't want the signs in their yards. Mr. Rehberg stated that any signs would be put in the Town Right-Of-Way and if anyone were to remove the signs, they should be arrested.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Preston Pope, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to send a memo to Public Works requesting that the side walk lines be painted on the correct sides of Bellstone and Post Avenue by October 1, 2013.

d. Seaside Avenue Crosswalks:

Mr. Brancato stated that the crosswalks have not been repainted as of yet.

Upon a motion by Bob Brancato, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to repaint all crosswalks on Seaside Avenue by October 1, 2013.

e. Do Not Enter Signs – Post Avenue/Seaside Avenue

This signs that were requested have been put up.

f. Trolley Avenue Signs:

The requested signs have been put up.

g. Use of Town Tickets:

The RST still have not responded whether more tickets are needed or not. Constable Larry Merrill will bring the subject up at their next meeting and report back next month.

h. No Parking/Sidewalk – Christy's:

John Riggio has stated that Christy's parking lot is private and the road is a State Road and is not in his jurisdiction. Secretary Kelemen was asked to write a letter to the State to request that action be taken regarding the "No Parking" issue.

i. Use of reflective cones on road work:

First Selectman Noel Bishop did not recall receiving the memo. A copy was given to him by Secretary Kelemen. The Board requested again that the matter be put on a Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda.

j. Inverted Speed Bumps:

It was stated that technically there is already an inverted speed bump with the drain on the sharp corner by the Elk's Club, although most people drive around it creating a bigger safety issue because they go into the oncoming lane.

A Petition was presented by Bob Brancato from residents of West Beach. Chairman Palermo read what was submitted for the record. The Petition was not dated and it was stated by Mr. Brancato that there were 86 signatures.

The Petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned at the urging of our 1st Selectman Noel Bishop wish to submit this Petition for the purpose of the procuring and implementing safety instruments and procedures.

The area involved in this Petition includes all of the area know as West Beach. Included is Seaside Ave., Post and Bellstone Aves. Mel's, Lynne, Old Pent, Apogee, Perigee and any streets that run to and from these streets.

After a sanctioned traffic survey, we have submitted a list of 178 stop sign violations on Seaside Ave. This was conducted for 2 hours on a weekday and 2 hours on a Saturday.

We the undersigned urge the Board to implement the following:

Allow the installation for seasonal temporary Speed Bumps in two places on Seaside Ave. This will be in accordance with both Town and State procedures for this type of equipment.

The installation of a new Stop Sign at the intersection of Seaside Ave. and Perigee Ln. in the southbound lane.

The purchase and installation of new style flashing solar powered Stop Signs at the intersections of Seaside and Bellstone, Seaside and Post and at least one Southbound on Seaside at the bend of the road nearest the Elks.

The upgrading of old and padded parking and other signs. New upgraded One Way & No Thru Trucks on those streets deemed as such.

Aside from the Speed Bumps, which will be installed during the next spring/summer season, implementation shall be completed as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with Town purchasing procedures. If Grants need to be requested, that process should take place as soon as possible with a representative from the West Beach Community participating. It is noted that many of the signage needed is already on hand and in stock.

As far as temporary bumps are concerned, Chairman Palermo stated that she did some research and a 10' across speed bump would cost \$659.66 each. This does not include installation or signage. If 6 speed bumps were to be purchased it would cost approximately \$3,600.00. This Board does not have money in the budget to purchase something like this. If the Board were to approve the speed bumps, it should be for a 5 month trial period. The Board would need to do some research regarding: Insurance, Liability to the Town, we would need to confer with the Fire Department, Police Department and the Ambulance Association regarding emergency vehicles. Constable Larry Merrill stated that he has spent a lot of time patrolling down at Seaside Avenue and the highest speed he has clocked anyone at is 36 MPH and he gave them a ticket.

Sal Adorno stated that for 3 years, we have had a tool that hasn't been used to its potential (Speed Monitoring Machine) and we need to get it out there, at least for good information and reports. Chairman Palermo stated that the machine is currently on Pond Meadow Road.

Michael Polo suggested that the beach association should hire a Constable or purchase their own speed monitoring machine.

Selectman Ehlert stated that a petition should be given to the Town Clerk. He further stated that he was not comfortable with the First Selectman urging Town's people to create and submit a petition to the Town. He is also disturbed that town's people have to submit a petition in order to get things done in this Town because they feel they are not getting satisfaction. He feels that the Selectmen need to listen to this Board because they are not getting the support that should be getting. Things need to be taken care of in a timely manner. This town has a \$24 million budget and there is no reason that these things are not being done. There was discussion regarding the possibility of the Town purchasing more speed monitoring units

First Selectman Noel Bishop stated that he recently attended a meeting with the West Beach Association because he had received a 2 page memorandum from them stating their concerns. At this meeting, members suggested a petition and his response was "you have a right to submit a petition", but in no way did he tell or urge them to submit a petition. Mr. Bishop further stated that he received the memo about the violations referred to in the petition and forwarded the information to RST Rob Hart. He further encouraged Trooper Hart to issue citations. Mr. Bishop takes all complaints received very seriously.

Chairman Palermo will download the reports from the Speed Monitoring Machine and have the reports for the next meeting.

Chairman Palermo stated that she also researched the flashing "stop" signs and mentioned some of the problems that could occur.

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Bob Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to contact the Resident State Trooper, Fire Department and Public Works to discuss the possible use of speed bumps on town roads.

There was discussion of contacting Pilot's Point and Stannard Beach to find out how they handle their speed bumps and if they work or cause any problems. Another idea is to contact other towns to see if they allow speed bumps on town roads.

Chairman Palermo asked Secretary Kelemen to talk to the Town Clerk in regards of how to handle the petition that was received.

k. "Stop" sign – Perigee Lane/Seaside Avenue Perigee Lane:

A motion was made by Bob Brancato to:

Request Public Works to put up a "Stop" sign on the south side of Seaside Avenue at the intersection of Perigee Lane. There was no second to the motion.

There was discussion whether there is a site line issue in the area. All members were asked to go look at the area and it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Secretary Kelemen pointed out that being that there are 3 members of the Board that live on the streets involved with the petition, and the requests that were made, there could very well be a "conflict of interest" and the legalities should be looked into.

l. “Right Turn on Red” at Flat Rock Place:

Preston Pope distributed a picture of the sign (“Right Turn Signal”) that is currently at the exit of Flat Rock Place at Route 153. People think its “Right Turn On Red” and it is very confusing.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to send a letter to the State requesting that they replace the “Right Turn Signal” sign at the exit of Flat Rock Place onto Route 153 with a “Right Turn from Extreme Right Lane Only” which is what is at the exit ramp from I-95 North to Route 153.

m. Any other Old Business:

None.

4. New Business:

a. Approval of Annual Vista Tour de Shore Event:

Upon a motion by George Rehberg, seconded by Bob Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the use of Westbrook Roads for the Annual Vista Tour de Shore Event to be held on October 20, 2013.

b. Any Other New Business:

1. A request was received from Drew Price of Hill Farm Homeowners Association requesting a “No Outlet” sign for their road. It was unknown to the Board whether this is a private road or a Town road.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to put up a “No Outlet” sign on Hill Farm if it is a town road. (The town does not have the authority if it is a private road).

Secretary Kelemen was asked to find out which it is. (Note: it is a private road – communication as such to be sent to Mr. Price.

5. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Preston Pope, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of the following:

\$97.40 to Kathleen Kelemen for Secretarial duties for August.

6. Correspondence:

1. Copy of Highway Use Permit #154-003-13 (Daisy Ingraham Trick-Or-Trot Fun Run).
2. Copy of requirements for Special Event Permit for Highways.
3. Copy of notification of new Special Services Section Manager and Point of Contact for Highway Use Permits (Mr. Andrew S. Morrill).

7. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Bob Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary