

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

Members present: Chairman Bonnie Palermo, George Rehberg, Robert Brancato, Preston Pope, Mike Oryl and Sal Adorno (at 7:36 p.m.).

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

2. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2013:

Upon a motion by Robert Brancato, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of September 9, 2013 as distributed.

3. New Business:

a. Approval of Annual Tree Lighting Parade:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the Annual Tree Lighting Parade.

b. Speeding Issues – Old Clinton Road:

An e-mail was received from Mr. Buddy Pettigrew of 944 Old Clinton Road regarding speeding issues in the area. He is requesting that a “Stop” sign be put near the rail road bridge on Old Clinton Road (There used to be one, but it was removed). He is also requesting enforcement and speed bumps in the area. He feels this is a dangerous situation and it is inevitable that a serious accident will occur. The worst times are 5-8 a.m. and 3-7 p.m.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Robert Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request speeding enforcement in the area of 944 Old Clinton Road.

c. Parking issues – Menunketesuck Avenue South:

An e-mail was received from Samantha & Anthony Marone and Cynthia and Kingsley Sumner of Menunketesuck Avenue South regarding parking issues as well as some Zoning Issues. Zoning CEO addressed the issues regarding the Zoning Regulations. This matter will be tabled until the January Meeting so that all members can go look at the area.

d. Request for Crosswalk and Signage – Town Hall Parking Lot:

Rita Trojanoski, who works with the pre-school children at the Town Hall, is requesting a crosswalk and appropriate signage from the sidewalk to the playground. This is a safety issue for safely crossing the children to the play ground, which they do almost on a daily basis.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Robert Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to put a cross walk from the side walk to the play ground in the Mulvey Municipal Center as diagrammed by Ms. Trojanoski and that appropriate signage be erected on both sides of the crosswalk.

e. Route 153 Traffic:

Chairman Palermo stated that there are 2 parts to this matter. 1 – The State of Connecticut has notified us that they will be redoing the entire intersection of Route 153/Route 166. Mr. Hiram Fuchs from the audience stated that he feels that there should be “No Turn on Red” signs at this intersection. It was decided to see what changes are made before this would be considered. The 2nd part is that Chairman Palermo received an e-mail from someone regarding the left hand turn from Route 153 onto the South Bound Entrance Ramp of I95. The person feels that the left hand signal should be before, not after the south bound traffic on Route 153 being green. Chairman Palermo explained that this is the way the State chose to work the intersection and it cannot be changed.

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to take no action on this request.

f. Route 153/Brittney Lane – Speeding Issues:

A resident of Brittney spoke with First Selectman requesting a “No Passing Zone” in front of Brittney Lane. Mr. Bishop bypassed the Traffic Authority Board and contacted the State directly. Tom Silva from the State contacted Chairman Palermo regarding the issue. He stated in his e-mail “Our records indicate that Brittney Lane is a private road. Private streets are considered a driveway. It is not the practice of the Department of Transportation to eliminate passing zones for the presence of private driveways”

Upon a motion by Robert Brancato, seconded by Preston Pope, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to take no action on this matter.

Chairman Palermo stated that she will, again, talk to First Selectman Noel Bishop, that when he receives requests like this, they must go to the Traffic Authority. He should not handle the requests himself.

g. Use of speed bumps on Town Roads:

First Selectman Noel Bishop attended the Council of Government Meeting on 9/25/13 and at that meeting all 11 First Selectmen in attendance stated that they do not allow speed bumps on town roads. Secretary Kelemen was asked to find out the 11 towns that were at the meeting. Chairman Palermo contacted the Fire Department and Ambulance regarding the use of speed bumps, but has had no reply. She will contact both of them again.

h. Parking/Traffic – Old Mail Trail:

Mr. Gary Bazzano was present at the meeting and stated that he is hoping to start some kind of neighborhood parking permit system to prevent people from parking in the area and going onto their private beaches. If this were to happen, it would have to go for a public hearing and a Town Ordinance would have to be created. Other suggestions were putting up “No public access to Public Beach” signs, make it 2 hour parking only, Stop sign at the top of Menunketesuck or moving the location of existing signs. All members were asked to think about this matter and to go look at the area. This will be on the next agenda for further discussion. Chairman Palermo will also contact Town Attorney Mike Wells about this matter for his opinion.

i. Meeting Schedule – 2014:

The way the dates fall the only conflict we would have would be October.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to set the meetings for 2014 as the second Monday of each month, with the exception of October. All meetings are to be held at 7:00 p.m. (instead of 7:30 p.m.) in the Mulvey Municipal Center.

j. New School signs from the State:

The State will be issuing new school signs for all towns in Connecticut at no charge. The signs will be the bright lime green.

k. Budget for next Fiscal Year:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request funds in the upcoming budget to purchase a second speed monitoring machine.

The amount for services should be increase if we have 2 machines. Everything else will stay the same. Sal Adorno recommended requesting funds to pay someone to put the machines up and take them down. This way, they would get used a lot more. Secretary Kelemen was asked to contact RST Rob Hart and find out the status of the speed monitoring machine and its recent usage.

l. Any other Old Business

1. Intersection of Route 1/Seaside Avenue/Wesley Avenue:

George Rehberg stated that he feels that there should be “No Turn On Red” exiting Seaside Avenue to Route 1. He stated that most cars don’t stop when there’s a red light and just keep right on going. With cars pulling out of Dunkin Donuts, one of these times, they’re going to get hit. Sal Adorno stated that all the signs that are put up by the Elk’s Club are also a hazard. Secretary Kelemen stated that she is pretty sure that this request was made to the State in the past, but they would not change the intersection. Secretary Kelemen will check old correspondence. In the meantime, all members were asked to go look at the area and the matter will be put on the next agenda.

4. Old Business:

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

Secretary Kelemen was asked to send another memo to John Riggio regarding the matter.

b. Train Station Traffic:

The train station is almost complete. There is a crosswalk across Route 1, but there is no signage as of yet. This will be put on the next agenda for follow-up.

c. Sidewalk Lines on Bellstone and Post Avenues:

There seemed to be some confusion with memo’s going back and forth, but the lines have been painted where we requested them to be painted.

d. Crosswalks – Seaside Avenue:

Again, there seems to be some confusion. John Riggio stated that he painted the crosswalks in the spring. Resident's of Seaside Avenue say they have not been painted. A memo will be sent to John Riggio regarding the matter. The Board would like to see them repainted no later than May 15, 2014.

e. "Stop" Sign – Perigee/Seaside Avenue:

There seems to be ongoing traffic issues at West Beach. Chairman Palermo met with Beach Association President Macarelli to discuss some of the issues. Chairman Palermo told Mr. Macarelli that, even though she doesn't believe that "Stop" signs will slow traffic, she would make a motion to look at putting a "Stop" sign at either Perigee or Apogee Lane to slow down traffic.

A motion was made by Bonnie Palermo and seconded by Robert Brancato, to look at putting a "Stop" sign at either Perigee or Apogee Lane to slow down traffic on Seaside Avenue.

Discussion: Sal Adorno stated that he learned at the "Slowing Down Traffic" seminar, the things that seem to work are: paint the curbing white, force people walking to use the sidewalks, not the road, paint a 6" white line from the lawns, put a solid yellow line down the middle of the road, paint the telephone poles from the ground up to 6'. All of these things make the road appear more narrow than it is. A member of the public suggested painting "20 MPH" on the road. Again, all members were asked to go look at the area. If you don't like the suggestions that were made, make new suggestions. Sal Adorno stated that he feels that a crosswalk should be painted in every spot where there are steps to go down to the beach.

Chairman Palermo rescinded her motion and Robert Brancato rescinded his second on the motion.

This matter will be discussed again at the next meeting once all members look at the area. Secretary Kelemen was asked to find out who is responsible for the sidewalks when bushes or brush start encroaching them.

f. "Right Turn on Red" at Flat Rock Place:

There has been no response from the State. Chairman Palermo will contact them regarding the matter.

g. Route 1/South Main Street Traffic Signal Timing:

Tom Karasay of 74 Magna Lane sent an e-mail requesting that the timing of the green light from South Main Street to Route 1 be looked at. He doesn't feel that there is enough time given to this green light. Chairman Palermo stated that this traffic signal is tripped by cars and has been looked at numerous times by the State. At this point, even if requested, the State will not change the timing on the light.

No action was taken on this matter.

h. West Beach Association Petition:

Town Attorney Michael Wells has deemed the petition received as "Not a legal petition because it is not in Statutory format that requests a Town Meeting". Chairman Palermo stated that she wasn't sure how to proceed at this point. It was pointed out that there is nothing to do at this point because it is not a legal petition. Robert Brancato stated that the Board is dealing with some

of the issues involve. Mr. Brancato stated that he will contact the West Beach Association regarding the matter.

i. Conflict of Interest Matter:

Attorney Wells stated that there is not a conflict of interest for having 3 members of the same beach association on the Board and making motions that will affect their neighborhood, as long as there is no monetary gain.

j. Road Construction Matters:

Copies of memo's regarding road construction and use of reflective cones were received as well as current road construction procedures.

k. Any Other Old Business:

None.

5. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Robert Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of the following:

\$165.58 to Kathleen Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

6. Correspondence:

1. Information on "Designing Complete Streets".
2. Requirements for Special Event Permit for Highways.

7. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Bob Brancato, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary