

WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2015

Members Present: Chairman Bonnie Palermo, Mike Oryl, George Rehberg, Tony Fastaia, Michael Polo, Don Harger and Sal Adorno.

Also Present: First Selectman Noel Bishop and Director of Public Works John Riggio.

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

2. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2015:

Upon a motion by Don Harger, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 9, 2015 as submitted.

3. Discussion with First Selectman and Director of Public Works:

The purpose for this discussion is to open a line of communications between the Traffic Authority and Public Works. Chairman Palermo stated that this Board has forwarded many requests to the Public Works Department that have not been done. An example is that we requested that a tree be cut down on Dennison Road months ago. Mr. Riggio stated that he went and looked at the tree and felt it was not an emergency so he opted to wait until he had more tree work to do before bringing in extra help. Chairman Palermo stated that Mr. Riggio should have communicated that to the Board. After further discussion with Mr. Riggio, it was felt that it was not necessary for the tree to be removed. Ms. Palermo stated again that this is the point, a line of communication has to be opened between the two involved parties.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to leave the tree on Dennison Road that was previously voted to be removed.

Mr. Riggio strongly suggested that in the future, the Town of Westbrook should not allow a driveway directly across from an intersection. A list was gone over of the items that were requested of Mr. Riggio. Mr. Riggio confirmed what was done and what was not. Mr. Riggio explained that he only paints lines once a year and do hire an outside company to do one small job would cost the Town a fortune. Mr. Riggio also stated that he doesn't believe in making it so there is no parking at all on a road. You have to give people somewhere to park. The next item was the requested crosswalk from the sidewalk at the Mulvey Municipal Center to the playground that was requested almost 2 years ago. Mr. Riggio stated that he has not done that because the playground is supposed to be moved so that a small boat ramp can be put in. Ms. Palermo stated that it hasn't happened for 2 years and the crosswalk should have been put in a long time ago. Ms. Palermo stated that she is requesting that John Riggio attend all meetings of the Traffic Authority Board because Mr. Riggio is arguing almost all of the requests made by this Board. Another point Mr. Riggio made is that this Board has requested things to be done at the Schools, but the Board of Education fights him every step of the way. Ms. Palermo pointed out that this Board has the authority over all town parking lots, including all the schools. Mr. Riggio left the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Chairman Palermo again stated to First Selectman Noel Bishop that it needs to be clarified what authority this board has and why Mr. Riggio does not follow through on the requests that are made to him. Mr. Riggio reports to the First Selectman and this Board would like an answer from Mr. Bishop. Mr. Bishop stated that he will look into the matter further and get back to the Board. Secretary Kelemen was asked to create a running list of requests made to Public Works so it can be tracked whether or not it has been completed. George Rehberg stated that Mr. Riggio does do a lot for this town, but he needs to be held accountable. There was discussion of requesting that money for roads signs be put in the Traffic Authority Boards Budget, but the manpower for any signage would still be done by Public Works. Tony Fastaia, again, pointed out that there needs to be more communication from Public Works to this Board and this Board should receive a monthly report back from Public Works as to what requests have been completed and if not, what the status is. It was suggested that if Mr. Riggio is not willing to attend Traffic Authority Meetings, then a liaison from Public Works should be appointed to attend the meetings.

4. Old Business:

a. Walk/Don't Walk signal at Seaside Avenue/Boston Post Road:

and:

b. Request for Crosswalk – End of Seaside Avenue:

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

Chairman Palermo stated that she has received communications from Emin Basic from the State. The State is now going to review the entire intersection and it may include crosswalks where there are none now and may finally include “No Turn on Red” from Seaside to Route 1. We will wait to see what comes from this before we pursue the matter of the requested crosswalk on Seaside Avenue.

c. Town Traffic Violations:

Director of Finance Andrew Urban has indicated that he would like to make some recommendations prior to the ticket being printed and the new policy going into effect. There was discussion regarding changes to the draft ticket from Chester regarding infractions and cost for each. Secretary Kelemen was asked to try to draft a ticket with the updated information for the next meeting.

Mike Oryl met with RST Wayne Buck. Trooper Buck stated that recently one of the Constables gave a parking ticket and the person appealed it. The Parking Hearing Officer (Cathy Wininger deemed the ticket invalid). Trooper Buck is not going to tell the Constables to give out tickets if they are just going to be appealed and taken away. First Selectman Noel Bishop referred to a letter that was received by his office from Cathy Wininger with some recommendations in the area where the ticket was given. Secretary Kelemen will obtain a copy of said letter and it will be placed on the next agenda. In the meantime, Mike Oryl will draft a list of violations and possible fees for said violations and bring it to the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding the ongoing problem of people parking and blocking the sidewalk in the Christy's parking lot by Westbrook Package Store. Chairman Palermo stated that she will contact Emin Basic from the State to try to get the matter rectified.

d. Intersection of Boston Post Road/Old Salt Work Roads:

Secretary Kelemen contacted the recommended department and was told that if there is a site line issue when a Town Road is entering a State Road, it is the Towns responsibility to cut the

brush back. At this time of the year, most of the brush is gone so we should wait until next spring to see where we are at with the site line issues.

e. Intersection of West Pond Meadow Road/Dennis Road:

This was discussed earlier and it was decided to leave the tree on Dennison Road and to not remove it because it really does not block the site of the upcoming “Stop” sign.

f. Parking/Traffic Issues – All Three Schools:

Chairman Palermo missed last month’s Board of Education Meeting. She will try to attend to make this months to discuss this matter with the entire Board of Education to try to get it resolved.

g. Parking (Waiting for buses) – Chapman Mill Pond Road:

Don Harger took pictures of the area when the 2 cars are waiting for the bus and passed them around for everyone to see. Mr. Harger also has shown the picture to RST Buck who was going to go out to talk to the parties involved. So hopefully the matter will be rectified.

h. Placement of Street Light on Striper Avenue:

An email was received from the Selectmen’s Office asking if the requested street light for Tarpon Avenue could be placed on pole #911.

Upon a motion by Don Harger, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the requested street light for Tarpon Avenue on Pole #911 with a shield as necessary.

i. Any Other Old Business:

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Recommendations of changes to Westbrook Place:

Upon a motion by Don Harger, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to move the “One Way/No Entrance” sign to the south side of the parking lot exit facing north on Westbrook Place.

b. Request for “Dead End” Sign – Meadowbrook Road:

A request has been received to replace an old faded “Dead End” sign on Meadowbrook Road.

Upon a motion by Michael Polo, seconded by Don Harger, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to replace the old faded “Dead End” sign located on Meadowbrook Road.

c. Copy of communication from a beach resident regarding safety:

A copy of a post that was seen on facebook from a beach resident that refers to no action being taken to make our streets safer. He refers to things that have private associations being given permission by the town to allow speed bumps, removable fences being placed by Stannard Beach Association. It was stated for the record that the Town did not give anyone permission to put speed bumps on their roads. They are private roads and the Town has no authority over them

d. Any Other New Business:

1. “No Parking” sign – Norris Avenue:

Chairman Palermo pointed out that the “No Parking” sign located on Norris Avenue by

the Scout Hall has been knocked down and needs to be put back in place.
Secretary Kelemen was asked to send a request to Public Works to have the sign put back in place.

5. Approval of Bills:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$84.32 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Copy of letter sent to ZEO Nancy Rudek dated 11/25/15 regarding 7 Pequot Park Rd.
- b. Copy of letter sent to Public Works dated 11/25/15.
- c. Copy of letter sent to RST Buck dated 11/25/15.

7. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Don Harger, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary