

WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD
Special Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2016

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

Also Present: Members of the public.

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

2. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2016:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 11, 2016, as amended.

3. Old Business:

a. Speed & Traffic Issues – Meadow Point Road:

A report was gotten from when the speed machine was on Meadow Point Road. The average speed was 19 MPH, the maximum speed was 27 MPH and the minimum speed was 5 MPH. It doesn't look like there is a speeding problem at this time. The speed machine will be put up in the area again at a later date to compare data. Don Harger will have the reports from the speed machine at next month's meeting. At this time, it was stated that the highest speed recorded was 41 MPH.

b. Alternate Fencing – Grove Beach Point Association:

Chairman Palermo stated that she looked into "alternate fencing" but did not find much in her research. Sal Adorno stated that in all the seminars that he attended for "Traffic Calming", this subject was never discussed much. Chairman Palermo will print out what information she can find and everyone was asked to look for the UConn Study that was presented to the Board in the past. The subject will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Board.

c. Signage Issues – Grove Beach Point Association:

Chairman Palermo stated that just before the meeting, she went and reviewed the area. There was a "Slow – Children at Play" sign located in the middle of a cross walk at the intersection of Old Mail Trail and Menunketesuck Avenue that was not authorized by this Board.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to send a request to the RST to remove the unauthorized sign that reads "Slow – Children at Play" that is located in the crosswalk in the area of Old Mail Trail and Menunketesuck Road.

Per the Constables, the "Stop" sign going northbound on Menunketesuck Avenue was placed in the area years ago to slow traffic. The Board members do not feel it should be moved.

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

VOTED: Unanimously that both "Stop" signs on Menunketesuck Avenue remain right where they are.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install a “No Parking This Side” sign on the west side of Menunketesuck Avenue.

d. Town Traffic Violation Tickets:

Chairman Palermo will contact Director of Finance Andrew Urban to find out the status of funding for the purchase of the tickets.

e. Parking Issues – Route 1, Coffee Grind to Westbrook Package Store:

Chairman Palermo still needs to scan the pictures and forward them to the State.

f. Curb/Island – McVeagh Road/Route 153:

We need to follow up with John Riggio regarding this matter.

g. Request for Crosswalk – 31 McVeagh Road:

This will be discussed at the September Meeting.

h. Crosswalk Signage – Beginning of Seaside Avenue:

The signage has been installed by Public Works.

i. Crosswalk – Wesley Avenue:

Still waiting for the permit from the State.

j. Pedestrian Signs – Town Center:

5 signs are being purchased by an anonymous party. 3 of the signs will be installed in the center of town in the following locations:

Route 1 at Walgreen’s Pharmacy: Closest Pole is SNET 236

Intersection of Route 1 and Old Clinton Road: Closest Pole is SNET 232

Westbrook Place (Route 153: Closest Pole is SNET 382

k. Update – Police Issues Report:

Chairman Palermo shared information she has received from the Old Saybrook Police Department, including budgets. Secretary Kelemen collected the Constables Contract and copies of the Police Budgets for the current and past years. Secretary Kelemen stated that she has requested information from RST Wayne Buck and has not received anything yet. She will make the request through the Selectman’s Office. It was suggested to invite Constable Joe Pucillo to the next meeting to answer questions about the Union Contract. Mike Oryl contacted the Essex RST and they stated that they currently have 4 full-time Constables that work the same hours as the RST’s. They suggested that our First Selectman meet with Essex First Selectman to discuss this. All of their full-time Constables are retired State Troopers so they did not have to pay for any training, nor medical because they are covered through the State. Mike Oryl also contacted the RST in Old Lyme. They stated that they are currently understaffed at this time. One of the things the Board needs to include in this project is the manning of the Town’s Police Boat. The Board members were asked to come up with questions that they would like answered by the Constable Union President. Secretary Kelemen was asked to make copies of all the information gathered so far and mail it to all the members for their review.

l. Any Other Old Business:

1. Draft of Rules and Regulations for road closures:

We really need to look into the liability of the Town when allowing for road closures. Chairman Palermo will contact the Town Attorney regarding the matter.

2. Traffic Issues: Employees and Vendors of Pilot's Point Marina:

Chairman Palermo stated that she did contact and spoke with Jeremy Maxwell of Pilot's Point and requested that they speak to their employees and vendors to ask that they abide by the speed limit on Seaside Avenue. Mr. Maxwell stated that he would do so. Chairman Palermo asked Secretary Kelemen to send a follow up letter to Pilot's Point regarding the matter.

4. New Business:

a. Resignation of Board Member Don Harger:

A letter of resignation was received from Don Harger.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to accept the resignation of Board Member Don Harger, with regret.

Chairman Palermo stated that the Board of Selectmen already accepted the resignation of Mr. Harger, which should have been done after this Board accepted it. Chairman Palermo will contact First Selectman Noel Bishop regarding this matter.

b. Resignation of Board Member Sal Adorno:

A verbal and written resignation was received from Board Member Sal Adorno.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to accept the resignation of Board Member Sal Adorno, with regret.

Secretary Kelemen was asked to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen notifying them of the 2 openings on the Board.

c. Request for "No Parking – Here to Corner" – Gerard Avenue:

A request was received from James DiVite of Gerard Avenue requesting a "No Parking – Here to Corner" in front of his house because cars are parking on the road and blocking access to his own parking. Chairman Palermo went and looked at the area prior to the meeting and took pictures of the area.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install a "No Parking – Here to Corner" sign on the west side of Gerard Avenue at the end of the hedge line.

d. Request for "No Parking" Sign – Mohican Road West:

We received written complaints regarding illegal parking in the area and they are requesting an additional "No Parking" sign.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request Public Works to install a "No Parking" sign just before 4 Mohican Road West on the right hand side.enforcement in the area.

e. & f. Seaside Avenue – Use of Town Beach/Parking at Town Hall and Signage:

Numerous e-mails have been received from residents of Seaside Avenue concerned about out of town people being told by Town employees at West Beach that they can park at the Town Hall parking lot for free (so as not to pay the parking fee) and walk to the public beach on Seaside Avenue. They are upset because there are not facilities except for at West Beach and they feel that Long Island Sound is being polluted. There is a notification on the DEEP site that recommends people to park at the Town Hall. They feel that not only is this causing problems on the public beach, it is also taking revenue away from the Town. They have recommended coming up with a Town Sticker program that will only allow Westbrook Resident to park at the Town Hall. Chairman Palermo stated that the Town Hall is a Public Parking Lot and this would be very difficult to do. Also, a lot of people who are visiting residents of the beach area park there also while visiting because there is very limited

parking available for property owners. It was stated that some residents have requested and received permits from the First Selectman's Office to use the Town Hall Parking Lot when they are holding large gatherings. They have actually received a letter stating they have permission to use it. Chairman Palermo stated that we need to address this matter with the First Selectman because the Traffic Authority has jurisdiction over town parking lots and the First Selectman should not be giving permission or authorizing permits for parking in Town lots. Chairman Palermo will contact First Selectman Noel Bishop regarding this matter. The residents present from Seaside Avenue stated that they really don't have a problem with people parking at the Town Hall, they just don't want it advertised. They found at least 3 websites that say "No Fee" to use the Westbrook Public Beach. Mike Oryl stated that someone told him that they contacted DEEP and they refused to remove the information from their site. The President of West Beach Association stated that they are willing to pay for signs (if approved) that would direct people to West Beach to pay to park in the lot where there are facilities. Sal Adorno suggested having stickers for residents and charge anyone else to use the lot. Mike Oryl, George Rehberg and Tony Fastaia did not agree with this because it is a public parking lot. Michael Polo suggested writing a letter to DEEP and request that they remove the information from their site. Mike Oryl stated that he would contact the State regarding the matter.

g. Request for Crosswalk Signage (in the road) – 1961 Boston Post Road:

Bob and Amy from VISTA were present and stated that a new crosswalk has been installed in front of 1961 Boston Post Road for the new VISTA Development. It is a State Road and there will be the regular signage installed but they are requesting one of the "cone" signs to be placed in the middle of the crosswalk on the road. This would be for short term and they are willing to purchase the sign. They are hoping, for the long term, to have solar powered blinking lights installed. Secretary Kelemen will contact Public Works Administrative Assistant Colleen Topitzer to see if we can add this location to the request to the State for permits. Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Michael Polo, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to send a request to the State of Connecticut to install the standard crosswalk signage at the crosswalk at 1961 Boston Post Road.

h. Request for better Crosswalk Signage – Crosswalk by Water's Edge:

A nearby resident is requesting a cone-like sign to be placed in the middle of the crosswalk. Secretary Kelemen was asked to contact the State and ask them to review the area for possible reflective signage and better lighting in the area.

i. Request for Memorial Plaque – Fencing on Seaside Avenue:

A request was received from Heidi Teubert asking if a memorial plaque for Evan could be placed on the new fence at the beginning of Seaside Avenue where the new crosswalk is. Chairman Palermo stated that the fence is privately owned and the traffic authority has no jurisdiction over it. She suggested possibly finding another place to put the plaque or to possibly approach the property owner at a later date.

j. Any Other Old Business:

aa. Speed Machine Reports:

Reports from the Speed Machine were generated. They are from 2 different areas on Seaside Avenue, Meadow Point Road, Bellstone Avenue and Pond Meadow Road. Secretary Kelemen will copy all reports and mail them to all Board members for their review.

5. Approval of Bills:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$32.42 and \$118.86 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Copy of letter from Noel Bishop to Don Harger accepting his resignation, dated 8/10/16
- b. Copy of Highway Use Permit – Daisy Ingraham Trick-Or-Trot
- c. Copy of letter to Director of Public Works John Riggio dated 8/13/16.
- d. Copy of letter sent to RST dated 8/13/16
- e. Copy of letter sent to ZEO Nancy Rudek dated 8/13/16
- f. Copy of email sent to Emin Basic dated 8/13/16

7. Adjournment:

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

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary