

WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD
Regular Meeting Corrected Minutes – July 11, 2016

Members Present: Chairman Bonnie Palermo, Mike Oryl, Tony Fastaia and Sal Adorno.

Also Present: Public Works Administrative Assistant Colleen Topitzer and 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:

June 13, 2016:

Upon a motion by Sal Adorno, seconded by Tony Fastaia, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 13, 2016, as distributed.

June 27, 2016:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Tony Fastaia, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 27, 2016, as distributed.

3. Old Business:

e. Alternate Fencing – Grove Beach Point Association:

Gary Bazzano, President of Grove Beach Point Association was present and supplied information on alternate fencing. They currently use this method at Stannard Beach. Although Stannard Beach is private, they have 15 MPH signs on their roads with “WTA” on them. The minimum speed limit is 20 MPH for any Town Road. Mr. Bazzano stated that River Road is a main road in and out to the area and feels this alternating fencing would be ideal. Other roads that are busy in the area are Menunketesuck, Mohawk and Old Mail Trail. They will not hinder emergency vehicles and they can be measured to fit the size of the road. They are easy to remove and he feels this is a nice alternative as a traffic calming idea. He has recommended 13 spots and would really appreciate it if the Board would consider the idea. Although he has recommend 13 spots, he will be happy with a lesser amount. The Association is willing to help in any way they can to accomplish this request. At this point, they are looking for approval from the Town, but is willing to take care of everything else. All of the Board Members were asked to research and talk to Zoning, Police, Fire Department, Ambulance Association and Town Counsel. Sal Adorno stated that it has been stated many times at the seminars that he attends that this type of traffic calming can also be a hindrance. If this were to be done, signs would be needed that state “speed calming methods in place”. There is also the matter of who has the right of way when traveling on the road. Secretary Kelemen was asked to find the survey and information done by UCONN on calming traffic ideas to see if alternate fencing was in there. Mr. Bazzano stated that signage could be put right on the fences. Board Members are also concerned about the fences being moved by water when there is flooding in the area. Mr. Bazzano stated that the main concern is Riverview Road. He is also asking that the members re-look at the “Stop” sign at the top of Menunketesuck Avenue heading north bound. He feels the location should be moved. This request was voted on at an earlier time, but never was changed. Colleen will look into this.

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Tony Fastaia, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to get more information on alternate fencing being used on roads for traffic calming.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to move the “Stop” sign on Menunketesuck Avenue from the telephone pole closer to the intersection.

All members were asked to go look at all the signage in the area of Grove Beach and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

a. Speed & Traffic Issues – Meadow Point Road:

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. Town Traffic Violation Tickets:

Chairman Palermo sent a copy of the quote to Director of Finance Andrew Urban. He has to go before the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to request funds to purchase the tickets.

c. Parking/Traffic Issues – All 3 Schools:

Chairman Palermo met with Director of Public Works John Riggio and he will post “No Parking” on right side going out to the far fields, but a lot of changes are going to be made in the near future (the parking lot is going to be repaved, dumpsters are being moved, shed being removed, gas tank being moved and some areas need to be flattened out). He will also post “no Parking” on one the north side of the High School exit/entrance. Colleen Topitzer provided pictures that these items were taken care of this morning by Public Works.

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

We need to request a meeting with the State. Chairman Palermo will scan pictures and email them to the State and request a meeting.

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

There were suggestions to paint the flower barrel white or paint the curbing yellow all the way around the island. Colleen Topitzer will ask John Riggio to go look at the area and make suggestions of the best way to handle.

g. Request for Crosswalk – 31 McVeagh Road:

This will be discussed at the September Meeting.

h. Crosswalks – Seaside Avenue/Wesley Avenue:

The crosswalk is completed on Seaside Avenue, but needs signage. We need to look at best place for signage and it may be in the State Right of Way (which means we will need a permit from the State). One resident feels the signage should be close to Route 1. We also need to look at the hedges in the area for the best site-line possible. We are still waiting for permitting from the State to install crosswalk across Wesley Avenue.

i. Pedestrian Signs – Town Center:

Chairman Palermo still needs to contact Senator Art Linares regarding the funding for this project. Also, it was pointed out that is no signage at all regarding pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Route 153 and Route 1 by the Congregational Church. Emin Basic from CT DOT needs to be contacted regarding this matter.

j. Update – Police Issues Report:

Still waiting for all the requested information from the Selectmen’s Office and RST Wayne Buck.

k. Any Other Old Business:

None.

4. New Business:

a. Request for Road Closure – Salt Island Road – 7/23/16 with a rain date of 7/24/16:

Request was withdrawn.

It was discussed that the Board needs to draft a set of rules and regulations for when anyone requests a road closure of any kind, including that every resident of said road must submit in writing that they are in favor of the road closure. This will be on the agenda for next month.

c. Zoning Referral – 11 & 13 Meadowbrook Road – Zone Change Request:

At this time, the application is for a zone change only and will not affect traffic. When a development is proposed, then it will become an issue for the Traffic Authority to review. Secretary Kelemen will send a letter to the Zoning Commission stating that the Board has no issues with the Zone Change, but would like to review the application for development.

d. Seaside Avenue Traffic:

Members of the public stated that they wanted to thank the Board and the Police for closing the Town Beach at 10:00 p.m. This has helped a lot, but there is still a speeding issue in the area. They believe that the speed machine slowed traffic down, but as soon as it was removed from the area, the speeding issues came back immediately. They are requesting signs that go in the middle of the road for each crosswalk. There is a big problem with the crosswalk located in front of 325 Seaside Avenue. They are requesting enforcement in the area again. They feel that the Police Officer on the bike does not work because they can't chase a car if need be to give them a ticket and they want tickets issued for all infractions. They also want the alternate fencing on the road to slow traffic down. They would like to know why private roads can have speed bumps, but town roads can't. The Board explained that it was voted to not allow speed bumps on town roads. This board has no jurisdiction on private roads. Tony Fastia did point out that Pilots Point Drive put out 3 speed bumps on the road and already 2 of them have been removed because the property owners on the road feel they are a nuisance. Another traffic calming idea they would like to see is solar paneled signs that are LED in the area of all crosswalks which are surrounded by blinking lights. Chairman Palermo stated that we will look at information regarding this type of sign. It was felt that we need to request enforcement first.

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

VOTED: Unanimously to request enforcement in the area.

ef. Area after Town Beach:

Mary Jane Monahan was present and thanked the Board and Public Works for the crosswalks and the signage. People are now stopping at the crosswalks and there has been a very positive response. The only problem is the delivery trucks and contractor vehicles etc that totally ignore any signage and they use Seaside Avenue for access to Pilot's Point Marina. They asked if the Board could communicate with Pilot's Point and ask them to remind all of their vendors and employees that this is a neighborhood and to please slow down. The Board will request enforcement in the area. Chairman Palermo will contact Pilot's Point regarding this issue.

g. Speed Machine:

Mike Oryl stated that one of the speed machines is not working correctly. It will not flash the speed limit. Don Harger will contact Traffic Solutions for technical support. Chairman Palermo will contact Andrew Urban regarding funding for any repairs.

g. Resignation of Sal Adorno:

Sal Adorno stated that he will be submitting his letter of resignation from the Board.

A motion was made by Bonnie Palermo to accept the resignation of Sal Adorno with regret.

There was no second to the motion.

Sal Adorno agreed to stay a member for one more month.

5. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Sal Adorno, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$137.02 and \$84.85 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Updated “pending” list.
- b. Media Release from State DOT regarding Pedestrian signage on State Roads.
- c. Memo from John Riggio regarding completion of “pedestrian lines” on Post and Bellstone.
- d. Memo from Colleen Topitzer regarding requests that have been fulfilled by DPW.
- e. Copy of email sent to Ms. Bransfield regarding approval of the “Trick Or Trot”.
- f. Thank you from Wendy Ciaffaglione regarding “Deaf Child” signs erected.
- g. Copy of letter sent to CT DOT regarding 7 Pequot Park.
- h. Copy of letter sent to RST regarding request for enforcement on Meadow Point Road.
- i. Copy of letter to Director of Public Works John Riggio dated 6/20/16.
- j. Copy of email sent to Ann Mazur dated 6/20/16.
- k. Copy of email sent to Ms. Baxter dated 6/2/16.
- l. Copy of email from Noel Bishop date 6/22/16.
- m. Copy of Highway Use Permit for Daisy Ingraham Trick or Trot”.
- n. Copy of letter regarding Sal Adorno’s re-appointment to the Board dated 6/22/16.

7. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Bonnie Palermo, seconded by Tony Fastaia, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary