

**Westbrook Police Advisory/Traffic Authority Board**  
**866 Boston Post Road**  
**Westbrook, CT 06498**

Page 1 of 4

**WESTBROOK POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY BOARD**  
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2016

**Members Present:** Chairman Bonnie Palermo, Mike Oryl, Tony Fastaia and George Rehberg.  
**Also Present:** DPW 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: September 12, 2016:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 12, 2016, as distributed.

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Alternate Fencing – Grove Beach Point Association:**

Mike Oryl went down to the area in August and measured the width of the roads in the area. The widest width was 17'4" and the narrowest width was 12'4".

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to not allow alternate fencing in the Grove Beach Point area due to the narrowness of the roads in the area.

**b. Town Traffic Violation Tickets:**

The tickets came in but they were wrong, so they are being re-done at this time.

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

Chairman Palermo sent Emin Basic another e-mail regarding this matter, but has had no response.

**d. Curb/Island – McVeagh Road/Route 153:**

The State DOT stated they would not paint the area, but gave permission to the Town to do so. Colleen Topitzer stated that Public Works does not feel that it is necessary.

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to leave the curbing the way it is and not paint it.

**e. Pedestrian Signs – Town Center:**

Colleen Topitzer stated that we have received the permits. Diane Schreck contacted her and stated that she had raised enough money to purchase 6 signs, which Colleen will order as soon as she receives the funds from her. She did point out that the permits need to be renewed on a yearly basis.

**o. 1961 Boston Post Road – Crosswalk Sign for the middle of the road:**

Bob O'Keefe, Operations Manager of VISTA was present and stated that they are looking for a sign to be placed in their crosswalk at 1961 Boston Post Road. They are willing to pay for the sign. The permit that was received from the State included a sign for this address. Mr. O'Keefe will contact Colleen in the morning to work out the logistics. Mr. O'Keefe stated that he is hoping to have a "HAWK Pedestrian Signal" in the future.

**f. Update: Policing Issues:**

Secretary Kelemen finally received a report of unfulfilled Constable shifts and distributed it to all members. We will need to know how many calls and what types there have been during the past year. Also, we need to find out what the cost of benefits would be if a full time Constable were to be hired or a differential rate if they opt not to take insurance from the Town. Secretary Kelemen was asked to find out this information. Currently there are 6 Constables. Once this extra information is gotten, the Board can hold a special meeting to go over all the information obtained and possibly make a decision. First Selectman Noel Bishop has indicated that he is hoping to have some information by January in order to move forward with the budgeting if there are to be any changes.

**g. Town Parking Lots and Traffic Authority Purview:**

No Update.

**k: Advertising of Westbrook Beaches on CT ST DEEP Site:**

Gail Colby was present and asked what progress had been made with getting certain information off the CT DEEP Site. Secretary Kelemen stated that she looked for the information on the site and couldn't find it. Ms. Colby stated she would forward the information so Secretary Kelemen could move forward with requesting that the information be taken off the site.

**h. Crosswalk – Wesley Avenue:**

Still waiting for the State to approve the permit to install the crosswalk.

**i. Request for Street Light – Magna Lane:**

After looking at the area, it was determined that the area that the street light is being requested is a private road and not a town road.

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously deny the request for a street lights towards the end of Magna Lane due to the fact that this is a private road, not a town road.

Secretary Kelemen was asked to send a letter/email to the person who made the request.

**j. Additional Pedestrian Signage – Route 153/Route 1 by Congregational Church:**

Secretary Kelemen sent a letter to the State requesting that additional signage be added. They responded that Route 153 is "Stop Controlled", that Route 1 is free flow, the recommended stopping sight distance for motorists traveling southbound on Route 153 exceeds the recommended distance based on the posted speed of 25 MPH, the three year crash data for this leg of the intersection from 1/1/2013 to 12/31/15 revealed two rear-end crashes and sidewalk and detectable warnings exist at both crosswalk termini. Therefore, they will be taking no action on our request at this time.

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to request enforcement of the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Route 153 and Route 1 by the Congregational Church.

**l. Draft of Rules and Regulations for Road Closures:**

This item is on hold at this time.

Chairman Palermo will contact the Town Attorney regarding this matter.

**m. Lighting/Signage – Crosswalk – Boston Post Road by Water's Edge:**

George Rehberg went and looked at the area. There is a street light there on Pole #425(65K). He thinks that a higher wattage bulb will help make the crosswalk more visible. Colleen Topitzer stated she would contact Eversource.

**n. Handicap Parking Sign – Pepperidge Avenue:**

Chairman Palermo gave a history of the property: In 1997 when the property at 7 Pepperidge Avenue changed ownership, the new owner requested that the handicap parking sign be removed because it was there for the previous owner. The sign was never taken down and the current property owner has been parking there for years. She recently got a ticket for parking in a handicap parking spot with no handicap permit. Because of the circumstances, the ticket was made null and void by RST Wayne Buck and the owner requested again that the sign be taken down. Since then, Chairman Palermo received a request from another resident requesting that the faded sign be replaced. Ms. Tina McDermitt and Barbara Gregg, both residents of the area were present at tonight's meeting and stated that they want the sign to remain because there are 3 or 4 people in the area who have handicap parking permits and could benefit from the parking spot. It was decided by the Board to invite all involved parties to the next Regular Meeting of the Board on December 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter with everyone present.

**n. Any Other Old Business:**

None.

**4. New Business:**

**a. Re-Request for tree to be removed on Dennison Road/West Pond Meadow:**

Mr. Al Magriz of 755 West Pond Meadow Road has requested that the Board re-look at the tree to be removed on Dennison Road prior to the "stop" sign at the intersection of West Pond Meadow Road. Previously the Board voted to request the Public Works remove the tree and DPW John Riggio did not feel it was necessary and the Board removed their request to remove it. All members will go look at the area again and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**b. 2017 Meeting Schedule:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, with the exception of October. There will be no October Meeting.

**c. Parking Issues by Westbrook Package Store:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to request The Department of Public Works to stripe the macadam section of the sidewalk by Westbrook Package Store/Christy's to indicate on parking on sidewalk and request enforcement from the Constables and RST once completed.

**d. Town Sidewalk Plan:**

Planning Commission Chairman Marilyn Ozols has requested a meeting with Chairman Palermo, along with Town Planner Meg Parulis to discuss the development of a Town Sidewalk Plan. Once they meet and go over the plan a joint meeting will be held between the Planning Commission and the Traffic Authority Board.

**e. Any Other New Business:**

None.

**5. Approval of Bills:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve payment of \$75.64 and \$64.83 to Kathleen Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

**6. Correspondence:**

a. Copy of approval letter to Annual Tree Lighting Committee.

- b. Copy of letter dated 9/27/16 to RST Wayne Buck.
- c. Copy of email dated 9/15/16 received from DPW regarding requests fulfilled.
- d. Copy of State Permit for Annual Tree Lighting.
- e. Copy of State Permit for Vista Tour de Shore Cycle Event.
- f. Thank you letter from Braking Aids Ride.
- g. Copy of email from Lisa Baxter dated 9/14/16.

**7. Adjournment:**

Upon a motion by Tony Fastaia, seconded by George Rehberg, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary