

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons,
Commissioner Charles Yost.

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca;
Deputy Chief Ashley Gonzalez

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, Public Works Director; Fred Eshraghi, Traffic
Engineer; Michael Yeosock, Senior Civil Engineer; Dave Jaeger;
Luigi DiMiglio, South Norwalk Citizens for Justice; Diane
Lauricella, South Norwalk Citizens for Justice

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dave Jaeger spoke about the need for a traffic signal at a dangerous intersection at Winfield Street, Pequot Drive, Duck Pond Road and Old Saugatuck Road. He went on to recount the details of a multi-vehicle accident that had occurred at the intersection on August 23rd.

Mr. Luigi DiMeglio, representing South Norwalk Citizens for Justice, spoke about the issues with the parking on Ely Avenue where there are vehicles blocking the intersection when they are parking near the corner or the fire hydrants. There have been numerous cars side swiped by school buses on other streets and the need for additional signage on Lexington for trucks to slow down.

Mayor Rilling said that both the issues of the Winfield Street intersection and the parking around Ely Avenue were on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

Ms. Diane Lauricella, the South Norwalk Citizens for Justice advisor, said that she agreed with the previous speakers and asked for foot patrols or patrol ride bys at Ely Avenue. This is also a quality of Life issue. She wanted to know when there would be a start date so the residents can work with the Police Department. The residents want to see some action.

Mayor Rilling asked if there was anyone else present who wished to address the Commissioners on traffic issues. Hearing none, he closed the Public Participation session at 3:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 14, 2017

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2017.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2017 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the removal of parking on Bedford Avenue between the Jefferson School parking lot and the driveway for 11 Bedford Avenue as shown on the plan.

Mr. Eshraghi spoke about the removal of the parking along Bedford Avenue. There needs to be better sight lines. It is a right turn only exit out of the parking lot that the parents use. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if this would apply on week-ends. Mr. Eshraghi said that it was better to have the regulation all the time than just during the school times. Chief Kulhawik said that the residents often park there week-ends but the vehicles are often not out of the lot before the teachers arrived. This would only remove about two and a half parking spaces.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF PARKING ON BEDFORD AVENUE BETWEEN THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND THE DRIVEWAY FOR 11 BEDFORD AVENUE AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the traffic plan for the SoNo Half Marathon and 5K race on October 14, 2017.

One of the organizers said that this was the third year and there was a significant improvement from the first year to the second. He said that they would like to have the same system used again this year. Mayor Rilling asked if there was sufficient officers and coverage. He was told there was.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR THE SONO HALF MARATHON AND 5K RACE ON OCTOBER 14, 2017.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Restriction of parking in front of Side by Side Charter School between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Mr. Yeosock said that the parents are picking up the children on Chestnut Street and that Chestnut Street is now one way. The DPW Department would like to remove parking in front of the school. This would involve 6 spaces. Mayor Rilling said that parking there is a challenge. One of the staff pointed out that there were no residences directly across the street. A discussion followed about the details of the parking hours.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO AMEND THE RESTRICTION OF PARKING IN FRONT OF SIDE BY SIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:30 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. MONDAY – FRIDAY TO ALLOW PARKING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE WITH THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREET FORBIDDING PARKING FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSIONS

South Norwalk Parking - Mr. Yeosock said that LAZ was now making regular visits to the Ely Avenue area to enforce parking regulations and looking at various solutions. Mayor Rilling suggested a number of remedies that the Traffic division could consider. Chief Kulhawik said that the Department has arrested 7 drug dealers in the area. Mayor Rilling said that MetroNorth needs to take a look at their property. He also asked for more garbage cans in the area. Mr. Chimento said that he would look into putting more garbage cans there.

Rt. 136 (Winfield Avenue) at Duck Pond Road intersection – A resident asked for a traffic light there. Mayor Rilling said that Route 136 was a State road. Mr. Chimento said that the Department has look at the intersections and report to the State. Mr. Yeosock said that there had been an up tick in the number of accidents there this year, but it averages about 3 accidents per year. Most of the accidents involved property damage with minor injuries. Mr. Chimento said that they could ask the State to look at the study. He said that the sight lines out of Duck Pond and Pequot seem to be okay. Mr. Eshraghi reviewed the process with the Commissioners. At the next meeting they would have to move to ask the State to consider a stop sign. Discussion followed.

Maple Street at Prospect - Atty. Zullo spoke about the pedestrian safety at Prospect and Maple. He said that the hospital had renovated and now most of the traffic is on Maple Street because the Whittington Cancer Center, the Main entrance and the ER entrance are all on Maple now.

Atty. Zullo said that the two apartments across the street is owned by the hospital and is where their residents and students live. One of the heads of the department spoke about an accident at the intersection that did not involve hospital personnel but did require a pedestrian being sent to Yale. It is particularly dangerous when there is snow and ice because the students and residents are continually crossing Maple Street at all hours of

the night and day. One of the third year residents also spoke about how the cars often speed down the hill.

Mr. Chimento said that he and Mr. Yeosock were there last week and suggested the possibility of installing a four way stop sign. Mr. Eshraghi said that the buildings were about 600 feet from the top of the hill. He said that a crosswalk could be installed, but it would be unprotected. He said that it would be good to take a longer look at the intersection. Mr. Chimento said that his department would look at this again and come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

Commissioner Yost asked what the percentage of pedestrians were versus the residents who drive. He was told that the residents and students aren't allowed to drive to the hospital.

NEXT MEETING

**4 PM Monday, October 17, 2017
Norwalk Police Department, One Monroe Street**

Mayor Rilling announced the next meeting date and time. Mr. Chimento pointed out that the next meeting date was incorrect and the correct date is October 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services