

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 20, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Charles Yost

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

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, Director of Public Works; Michael Yeosock, Assistant Principal Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:02 p. m. A quorum was present.

BUSINESS

2. Approve the removal of 100 feet of parking on West Main Street from the stop bar west as shown on the proposed site plan for Cumberland Farm dated November 10, 2017 subject to construction of the proposed facility.

Mt. Yeosock stated that the proposed change is due to the sight line when trucks are turning onto Main Street. He stated that the neighbors have not been notified of the proposed change. Mayor Rilling asked if there was a traffic study or supporting documentation confirming the problem with the sight line. Mr. Chimento stated that he was not provided with documentation other than the site plan labeled "Truck Route Plan Option #4".

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Todd Bryant came forward in opposition to the Cumberland Farm item. He stated that it is still going through the Zoning Commission and we do not know if it will be approved. He stated that the item was denied by the Planning Commission. He stated that his neighborhood association is coming up with an alternative plan for use of the site.

Ms. Diane Cece came forward in opposition to the Cumberland Farm item. She stated that her neighborhood association is unanimously opposed to the item, although they have not yet taken up a formal vote. She stated she was hoping that more information about the plan would be available in the Traffic Authority Agenda. She stated that the gas station would have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

Ms. Eloisa Melendez came forward in opposition to the Cumberland Farm item. She stated that the item was voted down by the Planning Commission and the Historical Commission. She stated that there are many people that park in this area, and they will be forced to park farther down the street. This would be the City's largest gas station, and that is not right.

Mr. Iverson Ponte came forward in opposition to the Cumberland Farm item. He stated that cars travel at high speeds in this area and a gas station would create a safety issue. He stated that there are already two gas stations in the area and adding another one would set a bad precedent. Taking away parking spaces would make things difficult for the residents. We need more recreational areas instead of a gas station.

- ** MR. YOST MOVED TO TABLE THE REMOVAL OF 100 FEET OF PARKING ON WEST MAIN STREET FROM THE STOP BAR WEST AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSED SITE PLAN FOR CUMBERLAND FARM DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2017 SUBJECT TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY UNTIL NEXT MONTH'S MEETING.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017.

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017 AS SUBMITTED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approve the installation of three rumble strips eastbound on Maple Street between Fairview Avenue and Prospect Avenue as recommended by the Norwalk Bike/Walk Commission.

Mr. Chimento stated that we are looking at alternatives to the installation of rumble strips. He stated that we installed speed warning signs. We are pulling in shoulder stripes. Hopefully traffic will slow down with 10 foot travel lanes.

Mr. Chimento stated that the rumble strips will cause a large amount of noise. He stated that because they are temporary they will have to be removed in the winter so that snow plows don't pull them up.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Cece stated that the rumble strips will cause too much noise, especially at night.

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF THREE RUMBLE STRIPS EASTBOUND ON MAPLE STREET BETWEEN FAIRVIEW AVENUE AND PROSPECT AVENUE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORWALK BIKE/WALK COMMISSION.
- ** THE MOTION FAILED WITH ONE VOTE IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MAYOR RILLING).

4. APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF N. WATER STREET FROM WEST AVENUE TO THE SOUTH SERVICE DRIVE OF SONO COLLECTION AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED PLAN FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2018 TO MAY 7, 2018 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALL.

Mr. Chimento brought forward a site plan for the closure. He stated that the street would be shut down for approximately 90 days.

Mr. Doug Adams came forward in favor of the item. He stated that they will be pouring concrete, laying steel and other activities. This is the maximum time frame of a closure that can be requested, and we are hoping to have the work done sooner than the 90 days. He stated that we have coordinated with the CT DOT and the work on the Walk Bridge.

Mayor Rilling stated that OSHA requires the closing of the road when work of this type is being undertaken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Cece came forward in opposition to the closure of N. Water Street. She stated that it is heavily congested at peak times. The public has not been provided with maps of the plan, and she hopes that the detour will not lead traffic onto I-95.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF N. WATER STREET FROM WEST AVENUE TO THE SOUTH SERVICE DRIVE OF SONO COLLECTION AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED PLAN FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2018 TO MAY 7, 2018 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALL.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

1. Witch Lane at Burchard Lane

Mr. Yeosock stated that we received an email from a resident requesting a crosswalk at Witch Lane. He stated that it is not a good location for a crosswalk. Mr. Chimento stated that the sight lines are not good and a crosswalk would be dangerous.

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Chimento to look further into the matter and come back with recommendations for what to do at the location.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting: Monday, December 18, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services