

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
February 4, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Darlene Young; Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan; George Theodoridis; Manny Langella (7:05pm)

**STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Vanessa Valadares, Senior Civil Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Jessica Paladino, Waste Programs Manager; Nick Roberts, Director of Parks & Recreation; Kathryn Hebert, Director of TMP; Michael Yeosock, Asst. Director of TMP

**OTHERS:** Alan Webber, Prime Equities Inc.; Richard Bonenfant, Resident; Diane Lauricella, Zero Waste Coalition; Betty Ball, Skip the Plastic Norwalk, Audrey Cozzarin, Zero Waste Coalition; Diane CeCe, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Tsiranides welcomed everyone and went over the public input item on the agenda. He informed all of those signed up to speak to keep their comments to three (3) minutes or under. He introduced the first speaker.

Ms. Diane CeCe is a member of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association but was at the meeting as a private resident. She stated she wanted to learn more about Item #'s 3&4 on the agenda regarding an application to petition the renaming of Cemetery Street to Mill Pond Place and the scheduling of the public hearing for the street name change. She would like to know why it is being presented and the benefit of it. She feels that it is a serious issue to rename a street and should not be entered into lightly. Whatever the intention is to have Cemetery Street renamed, she doesn't consider it to have a time issue. She urged the Committee to give the community more time and to move the public hearing to the April meeting.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant of 17 Park Hill Avenue. He wanted to discuss Item # 6 on the agenda regarding an honorary street name on Chestnut Street for Officer Cesar Ramirez. He stated

that he has been through this before when he was a councilman on the Land Use Committee, the ordinance must be followed. The ordinance says under chapter 95-38, if you are going to name something after an individual in the street, an individual shall be deceased at least one (1) year prior to the naming unless the Common Council determines with 2/3 majority plus one (11 votes) that the living individual deserves the honor. Mr. Bonefant said that Cesar does not qualify for either, because Cesar hasn't been dead for a year and he is not living. So you have to wait a year. He stressed that the ordinance must be followed.

Ms. Betty Ball is a Norwalk resident and a founding member of the Skip the Plastic Norwalk. She said that STP is a grassroots group founded in 2018 to raise awareness about the negative impact of single use plastics on health, community, and economy and to empower residents to refuse, reduce and reuse in order to work towards a community free of plastic pollution. Their goal is to raise awareness about true cost of a throw-away society by reducing the amount of plastic in the waste stream will benefit the planet and pocketbooks. They believe educating the public from the dangers of micro plastics to the ever increasing expense of recycling, is the most effective way to encourage greater participation by Norwalk residents. She offered four (4) ideas such as making PSA's along the lines of the more you know that will explain why reducing the plastic footprint is so important, how residents could achieve a smaller footprint, why recycling is a last resort and if you must recycle, how to do it correctly. She also suggested establishing a presence at Norwalk events which could help Norwalk residents understand recycling better as well as introduce the benefits of composting which would ultimately reduce the amount of food that is put into the waste stream. Support a Connecticut Bottle Bill that encourages residents to return plastic, glass, aluminum bottles and cans for recycling. She said that would take it out of Norwalk's waste stream, decreasing the financial burden on the City and reducing pollution. Lastly, she suggested a citywide campaign to promote drinking Norwalk tap water in refillable bottles instead of plastic water bottles. She said that the promotion could be written on the City water trucks. She said that she would send an example of a photo of the trucks in Washington, DC that say exactly that. Robust programs that educate and enlighten are crucial to building a healthy and a sustainable Norwalk and ensuring that they are stewards of the planet for the future generations.

### NEW BUSINESS

**1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA ABSTAINED**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE (1)  
ABSTENTION**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT**

**PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$3,750,000.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 20 4021 5777 C0021  
09 19 4021 5777 C0021 added under suspension of rules  
09 20 4027 5777 C0302 added under suspension of rules  
09 19 4027 5777 C0302 added under suspension of rules  
09 20 4021 5777 C0318 added under suspension of rules  
09 19 4021 5777 C0318 added under suspension of rules**

Mr. Carr reported on this. Deering has the current paving contract and they are satisfied with the work. They also have their concrete, curbs and sidewalks contract and the temporary pavement restoration contract. They feel that it is in the best interest of the City, advantageous from an efficiency perspective to extend Deering Construction's paving contract. He stated that they would like to extend the contract for one (1) year only. If it goes out to bid, the current contractor could bid higher and then they would be paying 5% to 10% more for the same work or a second contractor could bid even higher if Deering decided not to bid, even higher than what Deering would have bid. He gave an example of two (2) bidders. The prices that they are locked into are and would be lower than going out to bid. He said that they are prepared to go out to bid if they have to but their recommendation is to extend the contract for another year.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if he feels that this extension would help with any future projects that may overlap. He gave an example of curbs and sidewalks.

Mr. Carr responded they have crews working on concrete, curbs and sidewalks already and road patches from utility companies that cut into the roadways. He said there will be different contracts under one (1) contractor as opposed to having several different contracts under several contractors.

Mr. Berndlmaier added that Deering has a contract with curbs and sidewalks on Fifth, Fourth, Third, Second and First Street. He said with all the regrading going on in that area, they will want to pave those streets as soon as possible after the concrete work is done and it would be beneficial to the City to have the same contractor working on both so they won't have two (2) contractors pointing blame in the event of them messing up the proposed grading that they have set up. They would be able to get a better efficient schedule transitioning from the curbs and sidewalks to the paving in that area.

Mr. Tsiranides said that in the past year when they would put projects out to bid, it is not the same as five (5) years ago where there were five (5) to six (6) contractors bidding on a project competing against one another, and now they are looking at the same two (2) contractors.

Mr. Carr agreed stating that the number of contractors bidding on projects have decreased from past years.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that some of the other competitors that they know of are pretty busy in other towns. When they are busy in other towns, it is less likely to have those low competitive prices.

Ms. Young asked if they have ever done this in the past.

Mr. Berndlmaier answered they have done it in the past with FGB around 2004.

Mr. Carr said that they will not be paying additional costs like mobilization costs because they are already there.

Ms. Young asked if the bids for sidewalks and paving were traditional separate and if there is any benefit to combining the two (2).

Mr. Berndlmaier answered that they typically try to keep them separate because sidewalks take so long. He gave an example of why to keep them separate.

Mr. Carr said that they would pay more money for the same work.

Mr. Keegan said simply stated they will get next year work done for last year price.

Mr. Carr said that he doesn't think it would be lower.

Mr. Langella asked why the contractor would be willing to extend for another year if they know it would be a higher price.

Mr. Carr responded scheduling. He said if they rebid the project, it is a possibility that they will not get it but if they extend the contract now, then they would be in a position to schedule their crews and begin right away.

Mr. Tsiranides asked about their thoughts of the work so far.

Mr. Carr responded they are satisfied with their work thus far. He stated that there have been no performance issues.

Ms. Young said for purchasing procedures this would be a one (1) time thing.

Mr. Carr responded yes.

**\*\*MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE STREET NAME CHANGE APPLICATION FOR THE RENAMING OF CEMETERY STREET (STATE**

**ROUTE 136) FROM EAST AVENUE TO GREGORY BOULEVARD TO MILL POND PLACE.**

Mr. Tsiranides stated that they are just acknowledging the receipt of the street name application. They are not going to vote to rename it. Before they can vote, this application needs to go before the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission and the public hearing before it goes before the full Council for a vote. They are just acknowledging the street name change. There will be four (4) more times to speak on this item.

Mr. Carr said that this is merely to facilitate the process. They have received an application and they have to acknowledge it and act on it. They have also contacted the Third Taxing District.

Mr. Tsiranides said the Third Taxing District gets to weigh in on this as well.

Mr. Carr said that Mr. Sotnik has contacted the State to find out what contact information to provide to Mr. Webber, who will be speaking on the application shortly. Since this is a State road there are a couple of things that need to happen. First, City has to go through their process with Common Council, Planning and Zoning, Third Taxing District (TTD) is involved because the cemetery is located abutting the street name proposed to be changed and also the State because it is a State Road. They also checked to make sure that there is no other Mill Pond Place name within the City.

Mr. Keegan said so they are only voting that they acknowledge the receipt of the application. He concurred with Ms. CeCe that he doesn't see any sense of urgency either and it should go through all the committees, commissions and public hearings and whatever else is necessary to hear more about this.

Mr. Tsiranides said that it is going through every commission, TTD and a public hearing and if they feel that it did not get to enough people, then they could table it for one (1) more month.

Mr. Alan Webber with Prime Equity Inc. gave a brief overview. He stated they have become the owner of the property. They brought their partners out and now feel that "Cemetery Street" is not conducive to positive thoughts. Mill Pond is right behind the property and so changing the name to Mill Pond Place gives the pond more awareness and provide neighborhood enhancement. He added that Wells Fargo Bank is the only address on that street.

Mr. Tsiranides reiterated that they are only acknowledging receipt and will move this item along to the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission and the Third Taxing District before it goes to the Public Hearing so everyone will have an opportunity to look into it a little bit further and come out to speak at any one (1) of those meeting.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 4. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE RENAMING OF CEMETERY STREET (STATE ROUTE 136) (EAST AVENUE TO GREGORY BOULEVARD) TO MILL POND PLACE. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED STREET RENAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID RENAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 231, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.**

Mr. Tsiranides stated that they could schedule the public hearing now to lock in the date but as it goes on to the different commissions and they find that they need more time, they have the option to cancel it and reschedule for a later date. He reiterated that they are just setting the date for right now and it is subject to change should they find they need more time at which time they will postpone the public hearing.

Mr. Keegan asked if they could schedule a later date now or do they have to keep the March 3, 2020 date.

Mr. Tsiranides said that they do not have to use the March 3, 2020 date they could make it a later date now.

Mr. Carr said that the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission will review this item at their upcoming meeting prior to the March 3, 2020 meeting so it will be heard at two (2) meetings before the next meeting in March.

Mr. Keegan said that the public needs to chime in on this and would be prudent for them to schedule it later than March 3, 2020 because that would be less than 30 days and not enough time.

Ms. Smyth said that it is not an unreasonable request. She said that Cemetery Street does sound kind of negative but it is also part of Norwalk's history and that cemetery has been there for so long. She said the public needs the time to hear about this and to get the information out there.

Mr. Carr said that Mr. Sotnik pointed out that the notice in the paper has to be 10 days prior to the public hearing.

Mr. Sotnik said yes the notice has to be in the paper 10 days before the public hearing. He said they usually send mailings out to all the abutting property owners. They usually have the notice in the paper 10 calendar days but there are times when it is 10 business days.

Mr. Tsiranides said he has no problem moving this to the April 7, 2020 meeting. He requested a motion be made to amend Item 4 to read Tuesday, April 7, 2020 instead of Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MADE A MOTION TO AMEND ITEM 4  
CHANGING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FROM TUESDAY,  
MARCH 3, 2020 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020  
\*\*MOTION PASSED (AS AMENDED) UNANIMOUSLY**

**MS. SMYTH MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO INCLUDE  
ACCOUNT NUMBERS FOR ITEM 2**

Mr. Tsiranides stated that they are suspending the rules to include additional account numbers for Item 2. The account numbers are as follows:

**09 19 4021 5777 C0021 Pavement Management  
09 20 4027 5777 C0302 General Drainage  
09 19 4027 5777 C0302 General Drainage  
09 20 4021 5777 C0318 Sidewalks & Curbing  
09 19 4021 5777 C0318 Sidewalks & Curbing**

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY  
NAMING OF THE PORTION OF CHESTNUT STREET FROM MONROE  
STREET TO MERRITT PLACE TO OFFICER CESAR RAMIREZ DRIVE.**

Mr. Tsiranides Mr. Tsiranides stated that they are just acknowledging the receipt of the application. He added that when you make a road an Honorary Road, the name of the road does not change, the honorary name just goes above the name on a plaque stating the honorary person's name.

Mr. Carr stated that the sign is typically in blue. The honorary change does not constitute appearance before Planning or Zoning Commission but a street name changes does. This is discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting and if approved it would be moved to a Public Hearing then the Common Council.

Ms. Smyth stated that they cannot ignore what Mr. Bonenfant pointed out to them about the ordinance as it is very clear. She read the ordinance, an individual shall be deceased at least one (1) year prior to the naming unless the Common Council determines by 2/3 majority plus one (1) that a living individual deserves the honor. She said that if they could go to Ordinance and speak with the attorneys about a minor change, not sure how long it would take, but if you can name it for a living individual with a 2/3 majority why not be able to name it for someone that has given so much to the community.

Mr. Bonenfant was allowed by Committee to add a few words. He said that naming a building does not have the option of a living person. The Board of Education has their own criteria and can name whenever they want. The basis of all of this is to not make a decision based on emotion. He said that Public Works added that a building could be named for a person that is alive within Land Use.

Mr. Tsiranides stated that this issue should be passed along to the Ordinance Committee to make sure that it does fall within something that can be done. He suggested they table the Item and send it to the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Tsiranides stated he feels that it would be a great idea to name it after Officer Cesar Ramirez.

Mr. Keegan said he is not sure he understands the difference between naming a street for someone and honorary naming of a street for someone. So the honorary naming will go above or below the street name in blue.

Mr. Carr said that the street name will not be changed, it would still remain Chestnut Street.

Mr. Keegan said that he thinks the community wants to do this but Mr. Bonenfant has a point and they don't make rules to conveniently break them and they do need Ordinance to act on this. Mr. Keegan feels that the community wants to name the street after Officer Ramirez and not just as an honorary street and waiting a year may not be so bad and they can plan to have a real celebration of his life which he would be willing to assist with.

Mr. Langella asked if a committee member is on the Ordinance Committee would they have to recuse themselves.

Mr. Tsiranides responded no because he is going to table it to the next meeting so Ordinance could give their approval and opinion on the Item before they do.

Mr. Sotnik said that the application requested an honorary street name and not a renaming of the street.

Ms. Young said they should get a clear understanding of what they understand so the Committee understands what is being asked.

Mr. Carr said that the Mayor's Office and Police Chief discussed this as honorary street name.

Mr. Sotnik reminded everyone that if they renamed the street, everyone that lives on that street would have to change their address and driver's license. Everything would have to be changed.

**\*\*MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM TO REFER IT  
TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND MOVE TO THE NEXT  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

6. **SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF CHESTNUT STREET FROM MONROE STREET TO MERRITT PLACE TO OFFICER CESAR RAMIREZ DRIVE. THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 231, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.**

Ms. Young made a motion to table the item and refer it the Ordinance Committee.

**\*\*MS. YOUNG MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM AND REFER IT TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND MOVE TO THE NEXT PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AMENDMENTS 1 AND 2 WITH VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. DATED NOVEMBER 14, 2018 FOR TRAFFIC CONSULTING SERVICES RELATED TO WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 01 37 50 5258**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that there are traffic impacts related to the Walk Bridge Program at certain intersections. VHB is working on behalf of the City to analyze any disruptions and impacts from the proposed Walk Bridge Improvements at certain intersections. He mentioned the intersections on Seaview & Goldstein from Rte. 136. VHB will assist TMP with the traffic impact and propose a design for a permanent traffic signal at those locations.

Mr. Yeosock stated that the State is going to put temporary traffic signals at Goldstein Place and Veterans Park Drive.

Mr. Carr said the final outcome will be a temporary signal so the consultant will assist the City in resubmitting plans to the State to get approved for a permanent traffic signal. The consultant will do all of the design work and the resubmission to the State. Mr. Carr asked Mr. Yeosock to explain the difference between a permanent traffic signal and a temporary one.

Mr. Yeosock said that a permanent traffic signal will get them the crosswalks they need to get people across the 136 to the Park and get people out of the Park safely. A permanent signal is better in the long run for the City.

Ms. Valadares said that the temporary will be installed during the construction of the bridge. She said they really believe that intersection needs a permanent traffic light. Based on DOT studies there is no justification for the light to become permanent so they are trying to get VHB to continue analyzing all the traffic studies that the Walk Bridge Program sent to them and they decided that those numbers are correct. The second

amendment is for VHB to assist them with emphasizing that a permit in traffic will be needed. Particularly at the Norwalk River Valley Trail, the backup goals are in place and they believe that the pedestrian, for that area will also increase. They are trying to get support to move forward with that application.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if this is part of the adaptive traffic light system.

Mr. Yeosock responded that it has not been determined but there is a possibility.

Ms. Valadares said that if they get the traffic light approved, they do not design. The Walk Bridge Program will be responsible of the design of the traffic light and installation. She said the request is to help them get the permanent traffic light there under the Walk Bridge Program.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if the State would be willing to fund the study.

Ms. Valadares said no they are not funding the study. She said these funds are independent of that and will help them review some of the traffic impacts in the area.

Ms. Young asked if they are increasing the original contract which is \$25,000 so they are only increasing \$15,000 not to exceed the \$40,000.00.

Ms. Valadares responded the sum is not to exceed the \$40,000 which is in addition to amendment #1 \$25,000 that reflects the original contract to help them navigate all the traffic studies and amendment #2 is \$15,000.

Mr. Carr said amendment #1 is for the consultant to review anything that ConnDot is doing that could potentially affect any traffic signal from the Walk Bridge Program and amendment #2 is specifically for the intersection at Goldstein off 136 and the Veterans Park entrance. On call engineering services.

Ms. Young wanted to know the total.

Ms. Valadares responded \$40,000.00 not to exceed.

**\*\*MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. DISCUSS AND VOTE TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE NAME CHANGE TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- a. CHAPTER §94 OF CITY CODE TO ‘COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND USE OF TRANSFER STATION AND YARD WASTE SITE’ FROM ‘SOLID WASTE, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF’.**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that it is just a change in the title of Chapter 94. All of the 90's are Public Works. Currently, the language for solid waste management and

disposal of at the transfer station and yard debris site is in Chapter 74 which is Recreation and Parks. The first change is taking out language in Chapter 74 and putting it in Chapter 94. The reason it was in Chapter 74 is because of the resident pass/beach pass is tied to yard debris access and transfer station access. It would be more appropriately located in Chapter 94 and now it would specifically talk about a disposal pass and not a beach pass and that would give access to the transfer station and the yard debris site for residents and real property owners who have vehicle registrations to the City of Norwalk and pay vehicle taxes to the City of Norwalk. He explained that if a person has property here but none of their vehicles are registered in Norwalk, there will be a fee of \$100 for the disposal permit fee for a year.

Mr. Tsiranides stated that the current permit allows one (1) free ton of dumping before anyone is charged for dumping.

Mr. Carr said that the one (1) ton fee only applies to pickup trucks, large vans and vehicles with trailers. Passenger cars, vans or suvs can make unlimited stops.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. DISCUSS AND VOTE TO REFER THE FOLLOWING NEW ORDINANCES IN CHAPTER §94 TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- a. §94-18: DISPOSAL PASS FOR RESIDENTS AND REAL PROPERTY OWNERS WHO PAY VEHICLE TAX TO NORWALK.**  
**b. §94-19: ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS AND REAL PROPERTY OWNERS WHO DO NOT PAY VEHICLE TAX TO NORWALK.**  
**c. §94-20: OTHER PERMITS.**  
**d. §94-21: ADMISSION FOR NON-RESIDENTS AND NON-PERMIT HOLDERS.**

Mr. Roberts reported on this. He said they are mirroring the same process and the same tiers. The first tier is for resident and property owners who vehicles are registered in Norwalk. The second tier is for residents and property owners who vehicles are not registered in Norwalk and renters who have their cars registered elsewhere. He said that those people are included right now and allowed to get a beach pass right now. This provides a tier which is common in other municipalities where they have a

separate fee structure for cars. In the case of a property owner, it is based on vehicle tax not property tax. The pass will be tied to the vehicle's plate number so it cannot be given to a friend or family member. This provides an option to address the issue of out-of-state vehicles parked at residential parking spots at the beach. The third fee would be for non-residents who are property owners but their vehicles are not registered in Norwalk, there is a separate fee schedule for that as well.

Mr. Carr said there are three (3) tiers. First tier, resident and vehicle registered in Norwalk that is free, no change. Second tier, property owner and/or resident but vehicle not registered then a fee will be assessed, new proposal. Third tier, for people that do not live here will be subject to a fee. The commonality is the tier structure.

Mr. Roberts reiterated that the old system is based on vehicle registration in Norwalk. Trying to address that particular group and make sure there is a fee and structure.

Mr. Tsiranides said that this is along the lines of New York plates that may live in one (1) of the larger developments in the City and still kept their cars registered in New York.

Mr. Roberts said that legally they have 60 days to change the registration over once they have established residency here in Norwalk. He discussed the differences between the sticker used by Recreation and Parks compared to the paper pass at the transfer station.

Mr. Carr stated in the future there may be a sticker used instead of a paper pass. Mr. Carr and Mr. Roberts began to explain the differences in the sticker used for the beach and transfer station. Residents will not be able to print out passes in the future. Mr. Roberts mentioned the pass will not be acceptable at the dump anymore.

Ms. Paladino said the difference between the Parks passes and the disposal passes and next year passes is that they differentiate between cars, suvs, and mini vans verses pickup trucks, van and vehicles with trailers. Pickup trucks, vans and vehicles with trailers receive a resident pass at the transfer station which is a card and that is what triggers the one (1) ton free. In order to get that or update it, they would have to show a disposal pass to get those cards. There isn't any other requirement to get those cards. They will continue to keep the type of cars/trucks separate.

Mr. Keegan asked if a resident could get that card at the transfer station and wanted to know when this will take place.

Ms. Paladino responded that yes, residents get those cards at the transfer station and they are available now for pickup trucks, vans and vehicles with trailers. Ms. Paladino said that for cars, a resident will use their beach pass. She said with the changes, in order to get a new sticker for this fiscal year and get the new one (1) ton free, the resident would have to show the disposal pass to the weighmaster at the transfer station or the yard waste site and then he will update the resident's account to current and then they will receive the sticker.

Mr. Langella asked if it would be more cost effective to go straight to a license plate reader.

Ms. Paladino said they have discussed that option at both sites. The ideal place for a license plate reader at the transfer station would be at the location where the stop sign is located prior to parking. There is also an issue about staffing and City Carting currently operates the transfer station with one (1) sometimes two (2) staff so it would be a lot for that staff to carry an iPad checking the vehicles.

Mr. Carr said there is also a lot going on, very quickly at the transfer station and they have seen people try to drive around someone at the stop sign. He said that they are still looking into the license plate reader.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 10. DISCUSS AND VOTE TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO INCLUDE A \$100 FEE FOR CHAPTER §94-19 TO BE SET BY DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR RESIDENT DISPOSAL PASS FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT PAY THE VEHICLE TAX IN NORWALK. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 231, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.**

Mr. Tsiranides stated that they covered this item with the discussions from Item #8 and Item #9. There were no questions regarding this item.

Mr. Langella thanked everyone for all the work they put into this. He understands that this has been a big topic and he appreciates all the work they have done.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

### **A. Discussion**

#### **1. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that they have five (5) applications into the Army Corp. for Friendly Pond, Hunter Lane, Kellee, June and Lloyd. These applications for dredging the open channels and waterways for DEEP and Army Corp. so this is a State and Federal review. They have not received comments back from Army Corp. The Friendly Pond application was submitted November 25, 2019, Lloyd Road was submitted on December 17, 2019 and Hunter, Kellee and June were just submitted. They just received comments from DEEP only on the two (2) applications and the nature of the comments were let's take a look at this

application which may impact some potential fish, etc. so there may be some restrictions on the construction period, most likely the work could only be conducted from June to September. He anticipates that CT DEEP will issue the same comments to the other three (3) applications. Residents have inquired and he has given them brief status updates.

## **2. HEAVY PIPE CLEANING CONTRACT**

Mr. Carr reported on this. The final contract has been FedEx to National Water Main Cleaning Company on February 3, 2020. They have the bonds and insurance. National Water Main needs to sign and return. A preconstruction meeting has been set for late February and they anticipate actual pipe cleaning in March.

## **3. WASTE MANAGEMENT / DIANE LAURICELLA**

Ms. Lauricella reported on this. She introduced the members and the group. She thanked the members for hearing and listening to them and they look forward to future discussions. The Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition is an ad hoc group for waste diversion. She said that as they grow the girl scouts are looking at it and PTA's. They are trying to divert as much waste as possible so it doesn't have to be burned or landfilled. Right now waste is being burned or taken out of state in a landfill. The State of Connecticut states that each municipality must have a recycling coordinator and Jessica Paladino as the Waste Manager is Norwalk's and they want to help her. She said it isn't too late for the budget process and understands that there is a place holder in the operating budget related to waste reduction. She didn't see anything in the capital budget. Zero waste is being looked at because it is getting expensive to get rid of trash and recycling for some municipalities. She began to explain the reasons for this. There may be revenue resources and reductions in costs that then could be transferred into the schools request. Ms. Lauricella spoke about newspaper articles about people throwing all of their recycling into the trash. She said that isn't so in Connecticut and definitely not in Norwalk. The group wants to make sure that everyone understands this. She is a member of Recycle CT Foundation and suggested the Committee take a look at their site. Their purpose is to offer educational materials to schools and other places. She mentioned China sword and said it means that recycling is over. She also said that China warned America years ago to stop throwing trash in the bins with plastic and cardboard. The point is clean recycling is a good and achievable goal. There is a new trend in the State that talks about extender producer responsibility. She continued to say that there are a select group of companies in Norwalk that will take waste paint, although they charge for oil based paint, but there is a household hazardous waste day in Norwalk. They would like people to start helping them divert the waste stream so the bottom line in the Norwalk's budget is less. She said the State of Connecticut and the legislators has a goal of waste diversion by 60% of all materials in the waste stream from disposal of burning or dumping by 2024. She doesn't believe they will hit that goal and they are only about 35%. There is not a market for recyclables that are contaminated

and they get contaminated with single stream without an active, comprehensive, fun, and creative education program because people make mistakes and they don't understand. She said in the packets they can see what is in and what is out, is a generic system that was put in place by Recycle CT because so many towns are different but in Norwalk on the website there is a Norwalk what's in what's out recycling system. They hope to reach other demographics such as Spanish and Haitian populations. There are free resources that can be diverted into educational assistance in schools and City Hall. She said that she spoke with Jessica about this, that if you have a recycling container next to the garbage containers and they are clearly labeled, there are psychological studies that says there will be a higher recycling rate, especially in buildings. They want to tweak the systems that are currently in place in order to get a better cleaner recycling rate. In single stream there is an increased volume but not necessarily an increased quality. A picture of a blue toter with garbage in it was displayed. They want a more comprehensive program with greater outreach in the City. They are also studying the recycle rate in the City. She would like to see the

recycling list that used to be on the agenda get back on as a standard item which would allow a deeper and more focused discussion on recycling. The 5R's are refuse, reduce, reuse, rot (refers to composting) and recycling. She went into the cost of \$17.50 per ton for recycling and the costs of trash haul of \$91 per ton. She talked about forming a green ribbon panel. She said they approached the Mayor, Laoise King and Mr. Carr about this last September and would like to revisit either through the Mayor's Office or the Committee. Ms. Lauricella said that it could help the staff with volunteers that may have contacts and this could be done through fun events. They would like to get involved with the schools and they would like to take out toxic substances which they do through the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and perhaps drop the price of that day because they want to show people through education with flyers while they are waiting in line, online or on the news, how to use alternatives to the toxins that they are buying. She said it is about behavioral change. They want to be part of the discussion.

Ms. Mary Verel, retired guidance counselor for Norwalk Public Schools. She said there are 19 school buildings and it would be a really good first step to take zero waste into the schools. She mentioned that New Canaan saves over \$400,000 a year by recycling their leaves and stated that everyone is invited to visit their compost.

Mr. Tsiranides interjected that they do not have any say regarding the Board of Education and it would be best to meet with them.

Ms. Cozzarin said the State of Connecticut does not recycle food plastic. She contacted Chris Nelson at CT DEEP about this. She said the bag ban for the single use bags can be brought back to the point of sale like Shoprite and Stop & Shop. She showed the Committee the difference between the stretchy flexible bags that can be brought back to the point of sale and the rigid plastic that can tear and doesn't stretch. She said the only retailer that collects the rigid plastic in the nation is REI. They want to encourage people to collect the food plastics for reuse

by returning to the stores that will take them. Ultimately they would like to talk to the manufacturers and saying stop producing all this plastic and then talk to the retailers to stop selling the plastic.

Ms. Paladino stated that the bins cost money. She explained the flexible plastic reuse in the State of Connecticut.

Ms. Lauricella said the next steps is to rethink the current budget request for \$10,000 as a place holder for recycling. They would like to try some ideas and projects to produce revenue and use free information to get the points across. There is an emerging issue called SMART which stands for Save Money And Reduce Trash. That is Connecticut's version of point of sale or pay as you throw program. She said that is the future but right now they could get free professional advice paid for through DEEP whenever they are ready.

### **UPCOMING PROJECTS**

There was no discussion on this item.

**ADJOURNMENT**    **\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**    **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**  
**Public Works Committee**  
**7:00 P.M. Room 231, Norwalk City Hall**