

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
November 16, 2020

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Michael Yeosock at myeosock@norwalkct.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Kelly Straniti; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Michael Yeosock, Asst. Director, TMP; Fred Eshraghi, TMP Traffic Engineer; Darin Callahan, Asst. Corporation Counsel

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020.

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A NO PARKING RESTRICTION IN FRONT OF 41 HIGH STREET.

Mr. Eshraghi said that staff did a site visit and met with the individual who had made the request. He said that they have a business on High Street and the issue is the tractor trailers that are making deliveries cannot make a left out of the driveway at 42 High Street and currently they use the front driveway of 41 High Street to be able to make the turn. He said staff has sent letters to the residents in the area and he has only received a call from the resident at 41 High Street stating that he has no issues with the request. Mr. Eshraghi said he is recommending to approve the request.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A NO PARKING RESTRICTION IN FRONT OF 41 HIGH STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. 10 NORDEN PLACE

Mr. Yeosock said that staff has been reviewing the traffic reports for safety concerns along with the on call consultant for Planning & Zoning.

Mayor Rilling said his concern is that this item is coming before the Traffic Authority when there is no on street parking issues or traffic changing requirements, and his concern is what the question is that is coming before the Traffic Authority and what is our authority. Mr. Yeosock said the question coming from the public was what input, if any that the Traffic Authority has on the application. Staff suggested that Traffic Authority should consider looking at potential safety issues. So far, TMP hadn't found any through their review or the consultants review for the Traffic Authority to comment on.

Mr. Callahan said that his understanding is that there will potentially be a high volume of truck traffic in the area that did not exist prior to the pending application for Norden Place and the question is to what

extent the Traffic Authority has to regulate the traffic flow. He said he looked at the Connecticut General Statute and as well as the ordinance and the Traffic Authority's jurisdiction is very limited in this matter.

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Yeosock the reason this item is on the agenda. Mr. Yeosock said because a few meetings ago staff was asked to concur with CONN DOT's request of no substantial impact to the State highway system. The East Norwalk Neighborhood Association asked that the request be further looked into because of the impacts the project may have on Strawberry Hill Avenue with the additional truck traffic.

Mayor Rilling said the other concern he has is that as the Mayor he is not legally able to opine on zoning permit applications so he is concerned about the duality of the Traffic Authority getting involved in this. Mr. Callahan said that is absolutely correct.

Mayor Rilling asked if regulations can be put on the streets approaching the site if the Traffic Authority felt there was any significant danger or problems with traffic that would be generated. Mr. Callahan said "yes" but those are very specific powers that are granted in the State Statute to regulate traffic but beyond the specific powers are very limited.

Mayor Rilling requested that Mr. Callahan draft a memo to the initial question relative to the Traffic Authority's authority regarding the traffic study by Conn DOT.

4. APPROVE THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST AVENUE BETWEEN FORT POINT STREET AND WINFIELD STREET FOR WORK ON THE ADVANCED UTILITY PHASE OF THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT AS DETAILED IN THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN PREPARED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. Yeosock said the Connecticut Department of Transportation would like to withdraw the request until next month.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO TABLE THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST AVENUE BETWEEN FORT POINT STREET AND WINFIELD STREET FOR WORK ON THE ADVANCED UTILITY PHASE OF THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT AS DETAILED IN THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN PREPARED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CONCUR WITH CT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION FOR COLONIAL VILLAGE EXPANSION.

Mayor Rilling asked what the difference is between this item and the item for 10 Norden Place and if we don't have the authority to opine on that application why can we for this item.

Commissioner Straniti asked if the item was mistakenly added to the agenda. Mr. Yeosock said "no" and the Traffic Authority is being asked by the State DOT to comment on the application. Mayor Rilling

asked if the request is for simply impacts to Connecticut highways. Mr. Yeosock said “yes” and that the request for 10 Norden Place was for the impacts to Strawberry Hill Avenue. Mayor Rilling asked who performed the traffic study. Mr. Yeosock said both of the studies were done by consultants for the developers and the State Traffic Commission requests the concurrence from the Traffic Authority. Mayor Rilling asked if we have received a copy of the traffic study. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”.

Commissioner Straniti said she still does not see the difference with the two projects and thinks this should fall under the purview of Zoning and not the Traffic Authority. Mr. Callahan agreed and said he does not see how this body would be making recommendations to Planning & Zoning on these issues.

Commissioner Straniti recommended contacting the State DOT and state that the Traffic Authority is not the governing body to give the input that they are looking for and recommend that they contact the correct body which would be Planning & Zoning.

Mayor Rilling asked if this request is simply saying that there is no significant impact on the state highway system based on the traffic study for the Colonial Village expansion. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”. Commissioner Straniti said she does not see how that would not have an impact because it is a stressed traffic area.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO TABLE THE CONCURRENCE WITH CT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION FOR COLONIAL VILLAGE EXPANSION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVAL OF 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION/CORRESPONDENCE

1. REQUEST FOR A 3 WAY STOP AT MAXELL DRIVE AND BARBARA DRIVE.

Mr. Yeosock as per a request through customer service staff had looked at the location for a three way stop sign, but there have not been any accidents and the sight lines are good and didn't see a need for a three way stop sign.

2. REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING ON BEAUFORD ROAD.

Mr. Eshraghi said there are 16 residents that have made a request for traffic calming and staff will be performing a traffic study to determine the volume and speed of the traffic.

3. REQUEST FOR CAUTION ARROW AT 272 FILLow STREET

Mr. Yeosock said there is bad turn in the road in the area of 272 Fillow Street and there was an accident there recently and we have received several requests to install a caution arrow. He said staff has met with them and have determined the locations to install the advisory arrow and will be installing it in the next couple of days as long as the Commissioners have no objections.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons joined the meeting at 4:45PM.

4. GREGORY BLVD AT FIFTH/MARVIN ROUNDABOUT- PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND SIGNAGE CHANGES.

Mr. Yeosock said based on requests that were received pavement markings have been installed last week in the area to clarify the situation that when someone is traveling down Gregory Blvd. that they are supposed to yield when entering the roundabout.

Mayor Rilling said that a request was received for a roundabout at Strawberry Hill Avenue and Fitch Street in which staff will be looking into. He said he would also like staff to look at any other potential locations because a roundabout is a method of traffic calming.

Mayor Rilling wished everyone a safe and thankful Thanksgiving and said to stay safe and healthy and to remember the guidelines around having large groups gathering indoors.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd