

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
March 15, 2021

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide “live comments” will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the “raise your hand indicator” and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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: Commissioner Kelly Straniti; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; James Travers, Director, TMP; Garrett Bolella, Asst. Director, TMP
Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, Transportation

OTHERS: Nancy Rosett; Chris Manella

Commissioner Straniti called the meeting order at 4:00PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nancy Rosett- 399 Main Avenue

Ms. Rosett stated that she chairs the Bike/Walk Commission and that there is a bike lane on most of Strawberry Hill Avenue and the problem that has been created in the change of the lane arrangement is that a northbound bicyclist will have to come out of the bike lane because it ends just before the

intersection because the addition of the third lane means there is not enough room to have a bike lane all the way to the intersection so the bicyclist who is on the right hand side of the road and intending to go straight across Westport Avenue and continue north now has to get out of the right lane and go into the left turn and straight ahead lane in order to proceed straight ahead which means the bicyclist has to cross a lane of traffic to be able to do that. She said with the previous configuration the bicyclist would come out of the bike lane because it stopped and became sharrows and could continue along on the right hand side of the road across Westport Avenue and continue north. She said as a bicyclist she would prefer it be reverted back to the configuration that it used to be.

Chris Manella

Mr. Manella stated that he would like to thank the Commissioners for looking at Bouton Street and that he is with FGB Construction and has been requesting no parking signs for some time because after 7:00AM they cannot get a tractor trailer down the street, and installing the no parking signs is long overdue and is necessary and would make for a much safer passage down Bouton Street.

BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE ROWAYTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021.

Mr. Yeosock said this is an annual parade in Rowayton and because it is on a state road will be sent to the State for their approval once approved by the Traffic Authority.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROWAYTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM LOWE STREET TO THE EXISTING NO PARKING ZONE.

Mr. Yeosock said that Bouton Street is congested and in certain areas people are parking on both sides of the street and the street is not wide enough for vehicles to get through. He said staff is recommending to

remove parking on the west side of Bouton Street from Lowe Street to the existing no parking zone which is approximately 200' down from Lowe Street.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM LOWE STREET TO THE EXISTING NO PARKING ZONE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM WINDSOR PLACE TO INDIANA PLACE.

Mr. Yeosock said currently parking is allowed on both sides of the street and staff is recommending removing it from the west side of the street because the street is narrow and cars can't get through.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM WINDSOR PLACE TO INDIANA PLACE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM GLASSER STREET TO ROBINS SQUARE.

Mr. Yeosock said the same issues apply to this location and staff is recommending removing parking from the west side of the street.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM GLASSER STREET TO ROBINS SQUARE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE EAST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM RIORDAN STREET TO THE END.

Mr. Yeosock said that staff is recommending removing parking from the east side of the street because that is the side of the street where all of the contractor yards are located so all of the homeowners would still have parking on the west side of the street.

Commissioner Straniti asked if staff has received any comments from the residents in the area. Mr. Yeosock said that they have received some requests from the contractors because they are having difficulties getting their trucks in and out.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she thinks this is long overdue and when there is a mixture of residents and businesses these steps are necessary to put in place for the safety of all and she hopes this works because some improvements were made of the street a few years ago that did not relieve the issue.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons requested this to be evaluated for a period of six months and reported back to the Traffic Authority.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE EAST SIDE OF BOUTON STREET FROM RIORDAN STREET TO THE END.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE AT ROUTE 1 WESTPORT AVENUE (LANE ARRANGEMENT)

Mr. Yeosock said that a few months ago the state had made a change to the traffic pattern on Strawberry Hill Avenue as part of the Westport Avenue improvements and had switched an exclusive left turn lane to a combination left turn/straight lane, and had made what was formally a right straight lane into an exclusive right turn lane and it had alleviated some of the congestion getting in and out of the shopping parking lot, but there are people who would like in reverted back to the previous configuration. He said the state is willing to do it either way but they would like the Traffic Authority to weigh in on it.

Commission Straniti said she would like to have this discussion tabled until next month so the Mayor is able to comment.

Mr. Travers said that Mr. Yeosock had discussed this with him last week and are currently evaluating the intersection and will have a better recommendation next month.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd