

CITY OF NORWALK
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
APRIL 6, 2021**

- ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan; Tom Livingston; George Theodoridis; Manny Langella; Darlene Young
- STAFF:** Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Daniel Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer
- OTHERS:** Liz Suchy, Diane Lauricella, Audrey Cozzarin

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email 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 Monique Cipriano at to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairman Tsiranides called to order the Public Works Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. He stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. He announced all of the Committee Members by name and each member responded for attendance. A quorum was present.

Chairman Tsiranides turned over the meeting to Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer for the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Valadares stated that Mr. Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works will not be in attendance. She said that she and Mr. Chris Torre will be able to address any questions or concerns regarding the items on the agenda. She introduced the new Senior Civil Engineer, Daniel Stanton to the Committee. She said he joined the Department three (3) weeks ago and so she invited him to the meeting tonight as well as Mr. Sotnik and Mr. Berndlmaier.

Chairman Tsiranides welcomed them. He congratulated Mr. Stanton and welcomed him.

Mr. Stanton replied thank you.

Chairman Tsiranides gave instructions on how the public comment will be addressed. Public comments via email or zoom video conferencing. Chairman Tsiranides began the meeting with the Public Input.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public input (Guests at Committee meetings may speak to any item on the agenda. Comments shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker.)

Mr. Tsiranides opened public input 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 asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak.

Mr. Manzi replied yes. He said there were two (2) people that raised their hand electronically. Diane Lauricella and Audrey Cozzarin.

Ms. Lauricella began by saying good evening and welcomed Mr. Stanton. She said she would like to briefly discuss two (2) items on the agenda. Under Discussion B Tree Operations. She said she sent a memo to Mr. Carr and Mr. Torre related to the recent tree removals at Oak Hills Park and also related to a tree removal on a City project, Norwalk River Valley Trail. She considers the public's interest in the most important part of tree management and hopes the City welcomes that. She doesn't always get that feeling. The time has come to change or enhance the process so they don't keep having large native trees removed. It is a chance to work together. Public property is their property not Eversource's, DOT or Oak Hills Park Authority. She hopes that they will consider the chance of integrating public input. She said they have great entities like the Tree Advisory Committee and the Oak Hills Nature Committee. She asked that they please consider a tree moratorium of tree removal at Oak Hills Park because it is a problem there. Ms. Lauricella said as a member of the Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition, under discussion items, she wanted to know if the Chairman could just clarify when she is done, there are two (2) items related to City Carting Contracts. She said she knows under Freedom of Information, as you are undergoing contract negotiations, the public does not have the right to see the contract negotiations. She said once again she is alarmed that there is nothing in the backup materials

related to the contracts, not even any background information that she could find. She wants to say that in her read of the total

solid waste report it is actually Item C, there is an important item that needs discussion about why the recycling numbers are anemic. She has been following the totals and feels there needs to be a discussion. Her group is interested in solid waste and recycling, reduction, reuse and would like to have that conversation soon. She asked what the reason is for the Board of Estimate, transferring a shortfall of about \$38/48,000.00 because of recycling, it should be a money maker in the City not a money taker and that wasn't apparent to her from what she saw in the Board of Estimate minutes. She said there has been talk for many years for the Fourth District to have curbside carting and she thinks there are ways they could enhance the experience and the cost of MSW or solid waste removal. Ms. Lauricella said unless they heavily examine how efficient the recycling program is or is not, she doesn't think it is because they are not reducing the cost of the tipping fee, she thinks they shouldn't extend any additional contracts for solid waste pick up until they first nip in the bud the recycling program. She said City Carting received a no bid contract back in the day when Mr. Moccia was Mayor. She said they need to reexamine if they are optimizing the program and they should decide if they want to send both contracts out to bid when they come due. She said it is her understanding that they have until 2023 for the City Carting Contract and she has been attempting for several years to have a sit down with staff because she is in the waste management business and cares about optimizing the message and education of reuse and recycling and also reducing cost of doing business in Norwalk. She looks forward to hearing about the discussion tonight and she is assuming there is no action on either Item D or E and asked the Chairman to confirm.

Chairman Tsiranides thanked Ms. Lauricella and answered there is no action on those items it is only a discussion item. Chairman Tsiranides welcomed the next speaker.

Audrey Cozzarin greeted everyone. She said she is taking a holistic view to many topics that are being addressed tonight. She is Chair of the Pedestrian Committee and is very happy about improvements to the sidewalks and for the assets to pedestrians and bicycling and what is known as active transportation and all is so welcome. Since the pandemic a lot more people have been out walking and biking and many have said how much they love being out in nature. She thanked them for any improvements made to sidewalks that are disrupted, broken, or missing. Kudos for new bike lanes. She mentioned how other places have created separate bike lanes and pedestrian lanes to keep everyone safe. She thanked DPW and TMP for getting them closer to that ideal. She said more people are enjoying walking and biking and being out in the fresh air and for stewardship of the environment they need to up their game. She said as Ms. Lauricella mentioned and who is a wealth of data, they have the least tree canopy in the County and would like to see a halt to any further tree removal until they have really assessed what has been lost and what is proposed to be lost and make this an important part of the Committee's agenda. She mentioned that the latest science globally shows that the older the tree, the more carbon or pollution is being removed as a natural courtesy. Regionally, the forests tend to be only 70 or 80 years old so she said they are not starting with an advantage. She said they really need the trees and in addition to tree stewardship, the restoration of the environment, a la the pollinator pathway model is highly recommended for the health of wildlife and by extension of course all of us. She said the older trees are not always assessed for their value as carbon sequestration. She encourages them to keep this in the forefront so they can stop taking down the older growth trees that they need for the future generations. There has been a lot of webinars with a wealth of information on environmental data and stewardship practices. The Norwalk Library has nature

webinar series and has been an amazing resource with regular attendance with over 150 viewers each month. She said she is expecting her City's key staff charged with this field to know more than the lay people and encourages the DPW staff to

get beyond purely engineering and data driven only solutions, to understand the current national science right now. She said vision zero states when you keep pedestrians safe, you keep cyclists safe, when you keep cyclist safe you keep motorist safe. When we keep Mother Nature healthy, we earthlings are healthier. She said let's be leaders and utilize practices to keep Norwalk's water, air and soil the cleanest around and let's get out of our cars and walk. She thanked the Committee.

There was no one else for public input. There were no inquiries from the Department of Public Works.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021.

There was no report on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, ITEM VII.A.6 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES. ACCOUNT NO. 09 18 4021 5777 C0599.

ACCOUNT NO.	09 10 4027 5777 C0302
	09 20 4027 5777 C0302
	09 21 4027 5777 C0302
	09 18 4021 5777 C0021
	09 19 4021 5777 C0021
	09 20 4021 5777 C0021
	09 19 4021 5777 C0318
	09 21 4021 5777 C0318
	09 06 4021 5777 C0315
	09 20 4027 5777 C0643
	01 40 30 5258
	<u>09 18 4021 5777 C0599</u>

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She stated that they are just adding a TMP account for one of their future projects so they are adding TMP's account to their project.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if they verified the account year and the availability of funds.

Ms. Valadares confirmed.

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

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, FOR PROJECT PM 2021-

1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,008,196.40.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 20 4021 5777 C0021
 09 21 4021 5777 C0021
 09 21 4027 5777 C0302
 09 20 4021 5777 C0503
 09 21 4021 5777 C0503
 09 20 4021 5777 C0649
 09 21 4021 5777 C0318**

3B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, FOR PROJECT PM 2021-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,819.64.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 20 4021 5777 C0021
 09 21 4021 5777 C0021
 09 21 4027 5777 C0302
 09 20 4021 5777 C0503
 09 21 4021 5777 C0503
 09 20 4120 5777 C0649
 09 21 4021 5777 C0318**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said it is their yearly paving program and they received four (4) bids. She stated on this contract they have an option to extend for an extra year depending on the rates. They are very comfortable with Grasso doing the work. Grasso has the concrete sidewalk project that began late fall and they have resumed already this year and it is their recommendation to award the bid to them.

Chairman Tsiranides said that it is nice to see other companies coming out now as in the past there were only a couple. He said with Grasso coming out at 4% less than the closest bidder is a considerable savings and it makes a difference. He asked if there have been any issues with Grasso.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated that he realizes there were issues related to their properties they owned in Norwalk but they have since relocated out of Norwalk. In terms with the construction, they have been a responsible bidder with paving, concrete sidewalks and drainage. They have had contracts with us in 2014, 2017 and 2018 with no issues.

Mr. Livingston stated that he always asks about zoning issues so they moved out.

Ms. Valadares added that when they approved them last year, there were no legal issues from Common Council approving the contract. We are currently working with them on a different project and they have been extremely responsible.

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

4. APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD DETAIL DRAWINGS NOTED AS FINAL APPROVED REVISIONS, DRAWINGS DATED MARCH 2021, APPROVED BY ANTHONY R. CARR, P.E. #28018, C.F.M., CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS AND VANESSA N. VALADARES, P.E., #28346, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER.

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said this is to inform the Committee Members of the revisions to the Standard Detail Drawings and seek approval. Every few years the Engineering Department goes through the SDD to improve. They have addressed all the Villages & Districts in Norwalk which have different design standards for example sidewalks. East Avenue will be included into their details. She went through specific changes with Committee. She mentioned that there was one (1) big change in the Roadway Standards in order to accommodate bike lanes and arterial roads. She said they are trying to accommodate that in a safe way. In regards to the arterial roads, major and minor. Before they did the update, there is a minimum of a 12 feet travel lane for arterial roads and now they would like to allow an arterial road to have up to 10 feet travel lane which would accommodate a bike lane if they can get a traffic engineer analysis for safety and capacity. That would show the maximum speed for that road and what the ratio is for trucks and buses comparing to vehicles and also the flow to see the capacity of the road if they were to narrow.

Mr. Livingston asked if that makes it possible to have bike lanes.

Ms. Valadares responded yes. She said in order to make the bike lanes they may need to narrow the travel lanes while maintaining safety.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if the bike lanes falls within the actual green book safety guidelines.

Ms. Valadares said yes, they base all their studies and recommendations on the green book which highway uses and included it in their standard and requirements.

Ms. Smyth asked if narrowing roadways slow down traffic.

Ms. Valadares stated that it sometimes it calms traffic but it can also generate traffic. Safety and capacity, trying to find a mid-point

Chairman Tsiranides said that traffic is bad in South Norwalk in certain areas, will there be a study on these areas or monitor of the traffic so they do not add to the traffic.

Ms. Valadares said this is more like a Traffic Management Plan. It will used more like a guide to see what can be done in a certain area and what the impact would be. There is some software that can do that and that is why they need the traffic analysis.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY STANDARDS AMENDED MARCH 2021.

There was no report on this as it was discussed with Item 4.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE A 2,877 SQ. FT. PERPETUAL TURNAROUND EASEMENT FROM STONE REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC LOCATED AT 27 SEIR HILL ROAD (TAX LOT 540-80-0) AS SHOWN ON THE MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS ENTITLED "EASEMENT MAP DEPICTING TURNAROUND EASEMENT PREPARED FOR STONE REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2020, AT A SCALE OF 1" = 20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

6B. REFERRAL OF ITEM 6A. TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. §8-24.

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said when Route 7 was built in the 70's, there was no turn around point so now there will be. Stone Realty Associates will do a development on the end of the street and they will also put a parking lot opposite of it. They are asking for an easement with no cost to the City for the DPW trucks to use it to turn around using the parking lot.

Mr. Sotnik said Stone Realty Associates said that they would give this easement at no cost to the City. That allowed them to have a permanent turn around in that area which took care of the issue at the end of the cul de sac.

Mr. Livingston asked if they needed this for fire trucks and the like.

Mr. Sotnik answered it would be allowed for all City vehicles and emergency vehicles.

Ms. Suchy welcomed Daniel Stanton to the Department of Public Works and wished him all the best. She thanked the members of the Committee and especially Mr. Sotnik for all his hard work in getting the matter before the Committee. Her client who is building a 20 million dollar innovation center thanks them as well.

****MR. KEEGAN MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- 7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM – 0301-0515NP PROJECT, INCLUDING THE P.A.L., ENCLOSED WITH THIS AGENDA WHEREBY THE CITY OF NORWALK WILL TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$3,750,000.00 ON MAY 30, 2021, \$1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2022,**

AND \$1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2023, TO FUND THE UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITY LINES ON EAST AVE FROM FORT POINT STREET TO OLMSTEAD PLACE TO BE PERFORMED BY CONN DOT.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0471
 09 20 4021 5777 C0471
 09 21 4021 5777 C0471**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said this has been a capital request for the past few years. They are taking the opportunity that the Conn DOT is completing underground utilities from Winfield to Fort Point Street as part of the bridge replacement under the Walk Bridge Program. The City saw a great opportunity to continue the underground utilities from Fort Point Street all the way to Homestead. They have requested from the State to incorporate their project into the State's project but they will cover the cost as non-participating costs. They have been negotiating and designing for the last three (3) years. They agreed on final costs. The City now is very comfortable for their portion of the project. She said this is the first time the DOT is understanding of the City's cap on capital projects and they are helping them dividing the costs in three (3) separate payments. It is really the first time the State is doing something like this mainly due to the relationship the City has with them. They have the first installment in the account and they have requested its place in the account over the next few years. She said they usually pay in advance for every project.

Chairman Tsiranides asked about a timeframe.

Ms. Valadares said if this gets approved there will be a notice to proceed to the contractor by late May and then they will have to start their submittals and all the paperwork and hopefully begin breaking ground late summer. This should be a 2 ½ years project. This will be a big change to East Avenue and will follow with bridge replacement and follow the East Avenue Roadway Improvements that will be widening of the road, the first thing to get done will be the underground utilities.

Mr. Livingston asked if Ms. Valadares has any idea of the amount they will be saving as opposed to doing the work themselves.

Ms. Valadares said she does not have that number and does not believe there will be much savings as she thinks the numbers may be close. She said one (1) thing that is very hard to measure is that they do not have to do all the coordination for the project and there is a lot of costs that they call soft cost associated with it. She went on to describe the utilities that they would have to pay for. She believes that having DOT do the project under their contract is a lot of savings. The City will be overseeing the project and will have full access to it. They call

this a guarantee maximum price project. They are working together on this project. If there is an issue, the City can make them not close a street.

Mr. Livingston said his understanding is that they could not go into a multi-year contract unless they had all the funds approved in advance and wants to know if that is the case here.

Ms. Valadares answered no it wasn't the case. She said that the Mayor will sign an agreement stating that they have the funds and they have a Master Agreement with DOT as they have with

all the projects and that will be the legal base for the contract. Corporation Counsel has reviewed and agreed to the terms.

Ms. Young said with projects like these when people are impacted, they usually notify residents, who will be responsible to do that.

Ms. Valadares responded it would be DOT and if this is under the Walk Bridge Program now, every Friday they issue a newsletter/website they inform what is happening within the next two (2) weeks. DOT has a public outreach for residents impacted directly. She said this is one (1) thing that they cannot measure financially.

Ms. Young asked so they would be notified in advance if there is an event going on so they could make the roads accessible.

Ms. Valadares responded correct. She mentioned that the Walk Bridge Program has been going on for four (4) years now and what has been completed thus far.

Ms. Smyth asked if there has been any talk about the working hours.

Ms. Valadares answered yes and TMP has been engaged in those conversations as well. She said the basic rule is they should keep at least alternate lane on every single project that works in the right of way. When they have to do certain things and cannot keep the traffic flowing, they request of closure of East Avenue between Fort Point and Winfield. She explained the reasons and stated that some work will be completed at night. They are trying to see if they could find other ways to expedite the work in a safely manner and keep the traffic moving smoothly.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if they are going to work on any other utilities in that area that might require a little bit of work.

Ms. Valadares said that all utilities will be underground in that area.

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

****MR. LANGELLA ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. PROJECT STATUS

a. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT UPDATE

Mr. Berdlmaier reported on this. He said with the watercourse maintenance contract they have finished all the sediment removal from the first four (4) out of the five (5) locations. The removal amount that was removed to date was 2300 cubic yards and anticipate another 900 cubic yards to come out of the existing biggest location which is near West Cedar Street. Almost complete, only about three (3) weeks left. They will restore each of the areas that they

have disturbed at each of the five (5) locations. He said the residents neighboring those locations have been very cooperative and in support of the work. They are still well within the budget.

Chairman Tsiranides thanked Mr. Berndlmaier for all the hard work. He said he has seen them out there and he knows that the residents in that area are appreciative of the work being done.

Ms. Valadares pointed out that they have not received any complaints during the last storm so the cleanups have improved those areas.

b. DREAMY HOLLOW DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said they should be approaching the 60% design in the next two (2) weeks. They are targeting a late Fall start with hopefully bidding the project late Summer and then breaking ground mid to late Fall.

B. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Chairman Tsiranides asked if they could give an update and answer some of the questions from public participation.

Mr. Torre reported on this. He said Eversource's permit was signed on March 24th and will posted on the website and the map of where they will be working as well. They have a site walk scheduled for this week at Oak Hills with the Chair of the Oak Hills Nature Conservatory and Councilwoman Shanahan and Councilman Livingston. There will not be any removal of trees at Oak Hills until after the site walk and until they come up with a plan that has all the stakeholders involved.

Mr. Sotnik said that they have spoken with several people about what they have been doing and where they are going with the tree planting program. Budget wise for planting, Almstead is currently their contractor until June 30th and then they will be putting out a new RFP for tree planting. On an average cycle in Spring and Fall, they plant about 25 to 35 trees. The most ever planted was 35. This year, 17 was planted in the Spring and this past fall they requested 56 trees. They were able to fulfill all of that and have about \$15,000 left in budget for Spring planting. He explained how the coordination works when planting trees during other paving, sidewalks and curb projects. If they have to take down trees for a project, they plant new ones. They received their Tree City USA Certification again for the 17th straight

year and the Growth Award for the 15th straight year. He explained the relationship between Eversource and the City in regards to the trees that are within their permit. He said Eversource doesn't like to just take trees down. When they are given the permit, Eversource works with them to try to take trees and keep them as much as possible. Eversource has offered to host and do some work with their Arbor Day Celebration which they are looking to do some planting at Oak Hills. Eversource agreed to pay for some of the plantings and even speak at the Arbor Day Celebration.

Mr. Torre said that one (1) of the things that came out of the eight (8) trees being removed from Oak Hills is that it is not a fair trade for the City to take down an eighty foot tall tree that

is probably 100 years old and replant a sapling in its place. Those practices will not take place anymore. They have stopped the over pruning where you see a tree cut at the wires lopsided and it is a liability for the City. All trees on City property are a liability because trees fall in the wind and they fall in bad weather. They are trying to limit the City's liability when they take trees down because they do not take them down unnecessarily. He said the conversation needs to be put into the context of what they deal with before, during and after they take down a tree. They are moving forward with adopting some new ordinances that deal with trees, specifically to the building around the City and tree protection. They are working with Councilman Livingston and Councilwoman Shanahan to move forward with changing some of the ordinances to make it a little harder to take down City trees. They would like to have feedback from all stakeholders and anyone concerned about the environment.

Ms. Young asked what types of conversations they are having with developers that take down trees. Do they pay into something, how does that work?

Ms. Valadares answered that would actually go under Planning and Zoning. P&Z would have to review the drawings and they will require the developer to also add a landscaping plan. When DPW receives those same drawings, they do not look at the trees that are proposed to be cut unless they are changing the purpose area.

Mr. Sotnik said if the tree is on private property the City cannot do anything about that.

Ms. Young asked about the tree canopy.

Mr. Sotnik said that is a slanted study from Westcog. He said the study does have that result. He said there are urban areas in Norwalk that trees cannot be planted. Norwalk does not have the forest area like other areas to plant trees.

Mr. Livingston said he has been working with Councilwoman Shanahan and others and wanted to commend DPW, Chris and Paul for all their work. He said there are City trees and Private trees and the ordinance is to protect the City trees. The other thing is how can they work with P&Z and incorporate those issues in their regulations.

Mr. Sotnik said the Tree Advisory Committee has been trying to do that for some time. He said they do a lot of planting through the budget but they have been applying for a lot of

grants to fund the tree planting in those urban areas. He said the Tree Alliance which is a 501C3 nonprofit group also works with the City on trees.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if trees could be planted on Wall Street.

Mr. Sotnik responded yes. He said the area where they have the plaza area between Knight and High Street, they are going to move the curb line out to reduce the lane widths to put in a tree planter. He said he is adding three (3) or four (4) trees where he can without disrupting the sidewalk and ADA accessibility.

Mr. Torre added that one (1) of the things that needs to be taken into account is when planting trees like that are the store fronts. A lot of municipalities have taken trees out of the middle of their Towns because the store owners say that the signs can't be seen and that visibility to their

shop is impeded by the tree. He said they have talked about planting trees along City property where they don't need permission from private property owners to plant. Schools have plenty of property to plant trees and have a tree lined street. He said they do want to change the ordinances to make developers put up a bond for the City trees that could be impacted by construction. They should have a construction fence around the tree protecting the roots prior to building so they are working towards that goal to put ordinances into effect to protect trees and they don't have enough right now. Mr. Torre said they are in the middle of planning a Tree Summit Planning Meeting followed by an actual Tree Summit for all of the stakeholders where they could sit down and write some of these ordinances and change some of the tree programs to be more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Sotnik said that one (1) of the things that can be approved and updated in the standard detail sheets is a standard detail for tree protection of a chain link fence around the tree pit where they are working versus just snow fencing that a machine could back into. He said this could be put into the next update for the standard detail set. They have Neighborhood Tree Liaisons that assist the Tree Advisory Committee.

Mr. Keegan asked if a private resident could have a tree planted.

Mr. Sotnik said the way to do that would be through the Norwalk Tree Alliance.

Mr. Keegan asked if that is something that is advertised.

Mr. Sotnik responded no.

Mr. Keegan said to Ms. Young's point, we need more trees planted in the City. How can that be accomplished? He said the best nation is a donation so why can't they actively solicit the public to get on board with the planting of trees in the City.

Mr. Sotnik said the Tree Alliance has gone for grants from the Third Taxing District and they have given \$2,000 a year for several years now. The Tree Alliance will buy the trees at very low cost and get volunteers to plant them. The Sixth Taxing District also gave a grant of \$2,500. There are other programs going on in the background. He also mentioned that there are people that do illegal cutting to trees. They try to go after those people so they can make

restitution and get them to comply and possible plant trees. Josh Morgan will do more advertising on the tree program.

Mr. Livingston said that Councilwoman Shanahan and Louise Walsher obtained \$20,000 grant for trees and they are in the process of getting it and there are efforts out there.

Ms. Young said she appreciates the conversation and found it helpful. She has learned a lot about what they have been doing.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT –FEBRUARY 2021

Mr. Torre reported on this. He gave the breakdown for the month. He said there is more being picked up curbside than the residents bringing it themselves. He said recycling is trending towards pre COVID but are not there yet. He mentioned that a caller said they are receiving

more money transferred into recycling, he is unaware of that. 33% of the recycling budget is still in their account. In past years, recycling was up 8.82%. They average 9,000 tons of recycling a year.

D. CITY CARTING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW) COLLECTION CONTRACT (4TH TAXING DISTRICT)

E. CITY CARTING RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACTS (CITYWIDE)

Chairman Tsiranides stated that they currently receive money for the recycling.

Mr. Torre said they average about 9,000 tons of recycling a year and they make \$17.50 a ton for every ton of recycling that the City process. He said they have looked into possibly expanding municipal solid waste collection Citywide instead of just the Fourth Taxing District. It hadn't gotten any further than a discussion and it did not work out because they wanted to take away the \$17.50 a ton in revenue and charge the City \$65 a ton which is about \$427,000 and that was before the cost of picking up the whole City's garbage as opposed to just the Fourth Taxing District. The contract expires June 30, 2023. Somewhere in mid-2022 they will put out a RFQ and start the process for solid waste. There could be a discussion about citywide collection if the Council deems it pertinent. The whole City is collected for recycling, just the Fourth Taxing District is collected for municipal solid waste.

Mr. Livingston thanked the Chairman for putting this on the agenda. He asked how much they make a year in revenue for recycling.

Mr. Torre responded about \$157,000 in revenue in recycling.

Mr. Livingston heard that other municipalities are paying because they contract ended and now they have to pay.

Mr. Torre said they are one (1) of the last municipalities that are still getting revenue for recycling. He said they will not make any revenue past 2023. He said they are trying to limit their exposure to paying for recycling beyond 2023 and open up a solid waste collection to

the whole City. He said they are just going to wait for the bidding process to begin. In order to reduce waste, the food scrap program has really taken off and is doing very well.

Chairman Tsiranides said that he sat in on a couple of meeting with them and they tried to get ahead of the contract but it wasn't financially feasible at the time, for the money that they are bringing in versus recycling it didn't offset the cost of canceling the contract and renewing it right now. It would be an expense if we were to renegotiate the contract right now.

Mr. Torre said that the recycling market is not what it was five (5) years ago. He said a better phrase would be to reuse as much as we can.

Ms. Valadares stated that the next meeting will be at 6pm for Executive Session.

Chairman Tsiranides reiterated that there will be a Special Joint Meeting with Recreation and Parks on May 4th, 2021 at 6pm and there will be an email going out to everyone. He welcomed Daniel Stanton to the Department of Public Works again.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

ADJOURNMENT

**CHAIRMAN TSIRANIDES MOTIONED TO ADJOURN
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34P.M.**

NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 36
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD**