

CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAY 4, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Andrew Conroy, Chair; Fred Bondi; Douglas
Hempstead;
Nora King; Laurel Lindstrom; John Tobin;

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

Mr. Conroy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He said that he would be away for the next scheduled meeting. After discussion, the Committee agreed to cancel the next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PORTION

There were no members of the public present this evening.
Mr. Conroy suggested that going forward the public participation portion of the meeting be first on the agenda.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. King asked about the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. Alvord explained that a study was funded and done, but nothing beyond that. He said that there was a capital project scheduled for next year to address the "s" turn at Roton Middle School.

Mr. Hempstead asked for updates on the DOT projects. Mr. Alvord explained that the DOT has authorized the final designs for the Perry Avenue and James Street bridges. He said that the DOT is evaluating alternatives to the Merritt over Silvermine River bridge.

Mr. Tobin did not have any questions.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the progress on Strawberry Hill traffic calming project and the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. Alvord explained that Mr. Yoesak had a meeting with the DOT last Friday in Newington. He said that he was certain that it would take several more meetings.

Mr. Alvord reported that he met with all of the utilities except for the Third Taxing District regarding the East Avenue improvement project. He said that it was a positive meeting. Ms. Lindstrom asked about putting in a green shoulder. Mr. Alvord said that is part of the plan.

Mr. Bondi asked about the New Canaan Avenue bridge. Mr. Alvord said that the DOT is possibly going to finish in August. However, he said that he has not seen a stringer there in a long time.

Ms. King said that Down Under Kayak in Rowayton is having a problem because the property owner never applied for a permit and then was turned down by the DEP. Ms. King said that if Down Under Kayak does not get her permits, it will not be good for Rowayton. Mr. Alvord said that the Five Mile River handles dockage permits. Ms. King said that the DEP shut them down and will not grant them permits. Mr. Alvord said that he would make a call to try and get information.

Ms. King asked if the DPW maintains traffic islands. Mr. Alvord said that some are owned by the various taxing districts. In addition there is an adopt a spot program. Ms. King asked if the 6th taxing district was responsible for their traffic islands. Mr. Alvord said that the 6th taxing district does not have any.

Ms. King asked for an update with the Scalafani Brothers. Mr. Alvord said that it has been settled; the intersection was redesigned.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if the DPW was involved in the utility box painting project. Mr. Alvord said that it is being done in conjunction with the Library Board, Arts Commission and the DPW. He said that the design has to be a recognizable book theme. Ms. Lindstrom said that it is a great program.

NORWALK TRANSFER STATION

Mr. Alvord said that the reports have been reformatted. The next report will include tonnage for garbage and recycling. Mr. Bondi asked if more pickups have been scheduled. Mr. Alvord said that he believed there would be one during the week of May 17th and then two more in the fall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

A. STATUTE ON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Mr. Conroy said that Mr. Alvord found information. Mr. Alvord said that he included a copy of the law in the meeting packet. He said that Norwalk more than meets the requirements of the law. Mr. Hempstead said that he read through the law and it is Home Rule Rights. Mr. Alvord said that the Common Council can decide if it is appropriate or necessary. Mr. Bondi noted that a lot of bikers ride on the sidewalks. Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Alvord if there is a study available. Mr. Alvord said that one of his concerns is to pull everything together and not re-study anything that was done already.

BUSINESS PORTION

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The following correction was made:

Page 2 – second paragraph, last sentence should read as follows:

Ms. King said that he avoided her calls, back peddled and refused to rescind the letter.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS CORRECTED

APPROVE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXCAVATIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS IN PUBLIC STREETS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Hempstead asked who to call if there is an emergency. Mr. Alvord said that during non-business hours, the DPW supervisor on call could be contacted and he could be contacted during normal business hours.

Mr. Alvord distributed a diagram showing the 24 month patch timeline. Mr. Hempstead said that he does not see any reason why it can't be completed before the season ends. Mr. Alvord said that it takes months to settle. Mr. Hempstead said that 24 months is too long from the time the hole is opened to the time it is filled. Mr. Alvord said that there is a

compaction component to this. Mr. Hempstead said that he wants to be sure that the person doing the permanent patch is doing it right.

Mr. Alvord said that it is the contractor's responsibility to maintain the patch until the DPW makes the permanent patch. He said that settling will damage the patch. It takes at least one winter season to settle. He said that this was a bad winter for the roads.

Mr. Alvord said that the solution is to use the best mix available. He said that they are now using the best mix available. It compacts a lot better. Mr. Alvord said that they used it on Bouton Street and Newtown Avenue.

Mr. Hempstead said that he feels that 24 months is too long. Mr. Conroy and Mr. Bondi said that they did not have a problem with 24 months. Mr. Tobin and Ms. King said that they did not like it, but did not know how to get around it.

Mr. Hempstead said that under the Rules and Regulations, he wants to be sure that the City is not exempt from the regulations. Under 96-11-12 – the City of Norwalk will be bound by the rules as well as the permittee. Mr. Alvord said that the rules and regulations only need to be approved by this Committee.

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXCAVATIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS IN PUBLIC STREETS AND GROUNDS WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: THE CITY OF NORWALK WILL BE BOUND BY THE RULES AS WELL AS THE PERMITTEE
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord how to get the customer service reports. Mr. Alvord said that Ms. Blair provides reports to the neighborhood associations at the Mayor's monthly task force meeting. He said that the reports can be e-mailed to the Committee.

** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CITY'S BARGAINING POSITION
** MR. BONDI SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee and Mr. Alvord went into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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