

**CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 24, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Daniel O'Connor, Chair; Mayor Richard A. Moccia,  
Commissioner Peter Torrano

**STAFF:** Hal Alvord, Public Works Director

**OTHERS:** Police Chief Harry Rilling; Deputy Chief Kulhawik,  
Officer Susan Holland, Elton Fowler, Old Field Road  
Resident; Chalva Tchotoua, Old Field Road resident;  
Athena Jacobsen, Old Field Place resident; Jonathan  
Jacobsen, Old Field Place resident; Spencer Jacobsen,  
Old Field Place resident; Kathryn Barbieri, Old Field  
Road resident; Michael Silinsky, Old Field Place  
resident

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

*Let it be noted that all remarks by all the speakers are summarized and not necessarily  
verbatim.*

**BUSINESS PORTION**

**Approval of the minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting**

**\*\* MR. TORRANO MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2010.**

Mr. Fowler, a resident of Old Field Road, objected and said that statement on page 2 was incorrect regarding how much Mr. Tchotoua's vehicle had moved following the impact of the truck. He said that the SUV had been turned 180 degrees as a result of being hit by the truck. Mayor Moccia then requested that the following change be noted:

Page 2, paragraph 1, line 2: please change the following from "rotated 45 degrees" to "rotated 180 degrees"

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED  
UNANIMOUSLY.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Status Report – Old Field Road**

Mr. Alvord reported that he had met with the Old Field residents following the last Traffic Authority meeting.

Mr. Fowler, an Old Field Road resident then recounted the history of the current problem on Old Field Road. He said that in April of 2006, the issue of increased traffic had first been addressed. He then mentioned a March 2010 memo from Mr. Alvord to the Mayor regarding the speed bumps on Burchard. Mr. Fowler said that the traffic volume is very high and having alternative routes would be positive. He said that Mr. Alvord does not recommend having Old Field Road turned into a dead end, but that he respectfully disagreed.

Mr. Fowler then went on to mention that Ohio Avenue had been made into a dead end. Mayor Moccia pointed out that this had been done at least twenty years ago and possibly as much as twenty five years ago. Mr. Fowler then repeated his request to make Old Field Road a dead end. The Mayor stated that the reason that Ohio Avenue had been made into a dead end was because there is a blind spot on Ward Avenue. Discussion about this then followed.

Mr. Fowler asked for information on how many requests there had been for making streets into dead ends. Mayor Moccia said that the Traffic Authority would discuss this. He added that speed bumps don't work and that he receives complaints from residents who have speed bumps on their streets because they have to listen to the thump of the vehicles going over the bumps every five minutes.

Mr. Alvord said that the intersection at Witch Lane is very tight and that traffic counters have been placed there to tally the number of vehicles.

Ms. Jacobsen, an Old Field Place resident then said that this was the first that she or her family had heard about this request and Mr. Fowler had stated earlier that this issue has been underway for four years. She said that her other neighbors on Old Field Place also were not aware of this.

Mr. Fowler then displayed a photograph of a young child on a bicycle riding on Old Field Road. He said that Ms. Barbieri's daughter was learning to ride a bicycle on Old Field and her grandmother had to keep a look out for cars while this was underway.

Mayor Moccia said that there were many concerns about many of the roads in Norwalk and proceeded to list some of them. Evaluations are done and discussions are held about the concerns along with possible solutions. He reminded everyone that the Common

Council would be making the final decision about this and a public hearing would be held before the Council made its decision.

Ms. Barbieri said that she was on her front lawn at about 6:00 p.m. of the day that the picture of her daughter riding her bike was taken. She said that she saw two cars drag racing down the street.

The discussion then moved to possibly installing partial gates at both ends of the road. Mr. Alvord pointed out that the streets that have done this are private roads. He added that installing them on a city street would have to be done with a permit.

Chief Rilling then expressed concerns about the child riding her bike on the street. He suggested that if the traffic was as dangerous as claimed, it would be best to have the child learn to ride a bicycle on a quieter street. Commissioner Torrano agreed.

Mr. Jacobsen commented that Mr. Greg Saunders, who had previously signed the petition was no longer in favor of the matter. He said that currently he was more concerned about the intersection at Witch Lane and Highland Avenue. Ms. Jacobsen pointed out that a number of the children walk to school.

Ms. Louise Tyler, of Old Field Place, said that she felt the suggestions would adversely impact egress on the street. She added that she had lived there for many years and never saw any drag racing on the street. Discussion followed.

Mr. Alvord said that there had been an increasing volume of traffic in Norwalk overall. The city will be having a major traffic study soon and there will be opportunities for input from the residents.

Mayor Moccia said that the Traffic Authority would review this and that the issue may be sent to the Council for the hearing that is required by the Charter. He said that he would refer the matter to the DPW Committee.

Mr. Silinsky, an Old Field Place resident, asked why the issue had been going on for so long and that the residents of his street were not aware of it. Mayor Moccia said that the Traffic Authority receives requests from residents about traffic issues, but that the Authority does not notify neighbors about requests. He said that it is up to the petitioners to do so and that he had advised Mr. Fowler of this in March. Regarding the accident at Mr. Tchotoua's house, the Mayor said that he did not feel it had any bearing on the matter. Mr. Tchotoua objected, saying that the report stated that there were "no accidents" on Old Field Road, but that one had occurred on his property.

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO REFER THE MATTER OF OLD FIELD ROAD TO THE DPW COMMITTEE FOR EVALUATION.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER TORRANO SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services