

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015**

In Attendance:

Ernie Orgera
Frank Fedeli
Captain Tom Wuennemann
Captain Sue Bretthauer
Captain Brian McElligott
Sgt. Wayne Scutari
Officer Mike Skoumbros
Doug Hoyt
Dan Colleluori
Arnold Knittel
Paul Montanaro
Mani Poola
Veera Karukonda

Guests:

Carla Catanzaro – March of Dimes Walk
Elizabeth Hoffman – March of Dimes Walk
Keri Miller – Lawn Avenue Traffic Safety
Mike Palmer – Hot Dog Eating Contest
Bill Collier – Ryan/Hope Street
Jay Inzitari – Washington/Main Project
Pat Liotta – Soundview Avenue
Lisa Coggins – Soundview Avenue
Rabbi Moshe Shemtov – Hartswood Road
Mark Feller – Hartswood Road
Mo Concepcion – JCC Kids Triathlon
Raquel Anarcaya – Parking at 219 West Avenue

Meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Ernie Orgera, Chair.

Elizabeth Hoffman – March of Dimes – March of Dimes Walk – Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 9:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 300 Adults and 100 Children.

- Same route as last year.
- Four Police Officers have been hired for the day (from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).
- Registration starts at 10:00 a.m., Walk starts at 11:00 a.m. and ends at around 12:00 p.m. – They will be there until around 1:30 p.m. cleaning up.
- Noise Ordinance starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Motion was made by Mani Poola, seconded by Captain Tom Wuennemann and passed unanimously to approve March of Dimes Walk on Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mo Concepcion – Stamford Jewish Community Center – 6th Annual JCC Kids Triathlon – Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Set-Up Starts at 6:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 12:00 p.m. – 100 Adults and 200 Children.

- Same route as other years.
- Kids ages 8 to 14 will use City streets for their bike route. They will cross Newfield Avenue, west on Vine Road, right on Kerr Road and circling around Club Road.

Motion was made by Dan Colleluori, seconded by Captain Brian McElligott and passed unanimously to approve Stamford Jewish Community Center 6th Annual JCC Kids Triathlon on Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mike Palmer – Bridge Street Wienery – 3rd Anniversary Hot Dog Eating Contest – Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 11:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 4:00 p.m. – 50 Adults and 25 Children.

- Mr. Mike Palmer requested for one lane of traffic closest to the restaurant (Bridge Street Wienery) to be closed from Summer Street to Washington Boulevard, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- They will take care of the garbage/recycling.
- One Officer will be hired and use barricades.

Motion was made by Doug Hoyt, seconded by Frank Fedeli and passed unanimously to approve closure of one lane of traffic closest to the restaurant from Summer Street to

Washington Boulevard for Bridge Street Wienery 3rd Anniversary Hot Dog Eating Contest on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Raquel Anarcaya – Parking at 219 West Avenue.

- Ms. Raquel Anarcaya, business owner of a Beauty Salon at 219 West Avenue, stated that she is having parking issues since parallel parking was installed and it is affecting her business.
- For 11 years clients were able to park diagonally next to Ms. Anarcaya's business, being able to park 5 cars. Last week a Police Officer issued citations, on the grounds that 65 feet down the road there is a sign that says Parallel Parking Only.
- Mr. Orgera explained that the signs were installed because the Traffic Engineering Department has had several complaints regarding West Avenue. People traveling southbound on West Avenue, trying to make a right turn onto Ferris Avenue; have to go into the oncoming traffic lane to make that turn causing a conflict with cars that are sticking out into the traffic lane.
- Mr. Orgera offered to install 2 Hour Parking Signs across the street from Ms. Anarcaya's business in addition to the parallel parking on her side of the street.
- Mr. Orgera stated that the Traffic Advisory Committee will look at the issue and will try to create more parking for Ms. Anarcaya's business.

Mark Feller – Change in the Timing of Two Traffic Lights on High Ridge Road/Hartswood Road and High Ridge Road/Vine Road.

- Mr. Mark Feller requested that the Committee consider placing the traffic lights and crossing signals at High Ridge Road/Hartswood Road on an automatic cycle during certain limited times on both Friday evening and Saturday morning, so as to allow members of Chabad Lubavitch Synagogue located at 770 High Ridge Road cross in a safe manner.
- Jewish law prohibits a person from operating electrical machinery on the Sabbath (Friday sunset through nightfall on Saturday). Included in this prohibition is pressing the electric button to activate a cross walk. As a result, members who walk to synagogue have no alternative but to wait for traffic on High Ridge Road to let up and then run across High Ridge Road. This creates a dangerous situation for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Mr. Feller suggested setting up the walk signal to an automatic cycle during certain hours. Mr. Feller also requested that when the light changes to cross, it stops traffic on Hartswood Road as well and that the crossing time be extended. The change will be in the summer Friday night from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and winter from 5:00 p.m.

to 7:00 p.m.

- Mani Poola stated that more crossing time can be provided. Mr. Poola also stated that he cannot make the traffic stop without pushing the button for a period of time on certain days, it will have to be 24/7, 365 days a year; the State would not allow him to do it. High Ridge Road is a State road and all of the signals should be operated by them. Mr. Poola explained that if the recall is done all the time, it will have a significant impact on High Ridge Road traffic. Mr. Poola can make the request to the State, but his feeling is that it will be denied.
- Mr. Poola stated that there is an automatic pedestrian detector that can be used to solve the problem, but the cost is \$25,000 and there is money in his budget for it.
- Mr. Poola will be in contact with Mr. Feller.

Bill Collier – Request for Consideration for One-Way Traffic Flow on Ryan Street Flowing from Hope Street to Camp Avenue.

- Mr. Collier requested One-Way traffic flow on Ryan Street flowing from Hope Street to Camp Avenue.
- Mr. Collier stated that there is a safety issue with the flow of traffic as it comes up and down Camp Avenue, primarily due to speed.
- Mr. Poola stated that there is a request from Twin Rinks to make Greenway Street eastbound One-Way and partial one way on Ryan Street.
- Mr. Orgera stated that they will take a look at the parking issues in the area.
- Mr. Collier requested more signage and identification for the crosswalk.
- Further down Hope Street where Amore Restaurant and Sunny and Frankie's are located, there is no adequate parking. Mr. Orgera explained that there is a movement with the State to increase the parking at the Railroad Station and maybe behind the existing parking now at Largo Drive.
- Mr. Collier reported a sidewalk that is in need of repair. The sidewalk is located at the corner of Ryan Street and Camp Avenue, the sidewalk that is in front of the retail businesses that are directly behind Twin Rinks.

Karen Miller – Traffic Calming for Lawn Avenue.

- Between 60 and 80 Lawn Avenue there is a curving hill with a “Slow Down for Children” sign, motorists are not honoring the sign, making it very dangerous for pedestrians.

- Ms. Karen Miller requested speed bumps to slow traffic down. Mr. Orgera stated that he cannot promise speed bumps, because they are only installed on cut through streets. Mr. Orgera will ask the Commander of the East Side to do enforcement to slow traffic in the area.
- We will look at the signage in the area.

Lisa Coggins – Friends of Cummings Park and West Beach – Traffic Calming Needs and Pedestrian Safety for Soundview Avenue.

- Ms. Lisa Coggins stated that a lot of people use the park as a cut through to get from Shippan to Cove. The new construction at Chelsea Piers has created additional traffic congestion on Willowbrook Avenue, which is causing more speeding on Soundview Avenue as well. Parking at the multi-unit on Soundview Avenue at the lower end toward Wardwell Street creates bad sightlines.
- There are no existing signs for pedestrians. There are no crosswalks and the residents do want them. There is nothing for pedestrian safety.
- The Master Plan Design has pedestrian signs, crosswalks, stops signs, speed limit signs.
- Neighbors are requesting immediate action on Mayor's Street Smart Ordinance, implementing the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, realizing the Cummings West Master Plan and responding to resident requests.
- Mr. Orgera stated that the whole area will be evaluated. They will look at pedestrian crossing areas and where there should be pedestrian crossing areas, pedestrian crossing signage and they will also look at slowing traffic as well.
- Ms. Coggins wants to know if a 4 Way Stop Sign can be installed at the entrance of Soundview Avenue, McMullen Avenue and Cummings Park. Mr. Orgera stated that if the intersection meets the criteria it could be done, if not, it will not be installed. Pedestrian crossing signs will be installed; crosswalks will be installed where there is access to a sidewalk.
- Captain Brian McElligott will provide traffic patrol; Mr. Orgera will ask the Park Police to keep patrol as well.
- Representative Kieran Ryan stated that he has received a lot of e-mails regarding speed on Soundview Avenue. Representative Ryan agrees that a 4 Way Stop Sign is a great idea.

New Business

Motion was made by Frank Fedeli, seconded by Captain Brian McElligott and passed unanimously to suspend the rules and add Jay Inzitari to the Agenda.

- Mr. Jay Inzitari from RMS Construction stated that demolition is getting very close for the Washington Boulevard/Main Street Project; they will start Monday or Tuesday pending on permits.
- RMS Construction would like to close the sidewalks during the demolition hours of the buildings on Washington Boulevard and move pedestrians to the crosswalks during working hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for four to six days.
- RMS Construction is in the process of getting State Permits to take over the parking lane in that area. Jersey barriers will be placed in the parking lane.
- At this point they are not having a sidewalk shed; they will work out a plan if needed.
- During the construction timeframe the sidewalk will be continuously closed, less than 12 months. Mr. Orgera asked that a sidewalk be created in the parking lane once the demolition is done. Mr. Inzitari will look into it.
- Once the building is down, a temporary fence will go up and sidewalks open up again.

Captain Tom Wuennemann

- Captain Wuennemann was contacted by the D.S.S.D. regarding Alive @ Five. During one of the weeks they would like to bring out a 40' x 40' area that takes three hours to set up. They want all the people that enter the venue and walk through Main Street and Summer Street to walk through this, it will be pedestrian friendly. If approved, Summer Street and Main Street will have to be closed 3 hours earlier, this will inconvenience many residents.
- Traffic Advisory Committee does not feel that this is a good idea.

Officer Mike Skoumbros arrived at 12:07 p.m.

As there were no further business, motion was made by Frank Fedeli, seconded by Doug Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
May 6, 2015