

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013**

In Attendance:

Ernie Orgera  
Captain Brian McElligott  
Captain Bill Mullin  
Captain Sue Bretthauer  
Captain Wuennemann  
Sgt. Chris Weed  
Officer Mike Skoumbros  
Thomas Turk  
Doug Hoyt  
Veera Karukonda  
Paul Montanaro  
Frank Fedeli

Guests:

Ray Mazzeo – Summer Street Parking  
Rick Redniss – Summer Street Parking  
Laura LaBosky – Stamford Urban Transitway  
Ann Brown – Stamford Urban Transitway  
Christine Powers – MarcUs for Change 5K  
Carla Catanzaro – Duathlon  
Jason Twedt – Duathlon  
Julie Gabay – Duathlon  
Andrea Dunnam – American Diabetes Association  
Andrea Valvo – Ministerios Bethania CT  
Althea Brown – Waterside Neighborhood Issues  
Natalie Levitt – Waterside Neighborhood Issues  
Stan Siecienski – Waterside Neighborhood Issues  
Rep. John Zelinsky –Sightline Issue at Fourth & Summer St.

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

Ernie Orgera stated that we will go out of order and move Mr. Rick Redniss to the beginning of the Agenda.

### **Rick Redniss – Summer Street Parking.**

- Mr. Redniss stated that now that the Post Office has been moved to another location, the owners of Ridgeway Shopping Center see an opportunity to improve the parking.
- Mr. Redniss presented a few options including removing the island on Summer Street and installing angled parking. This plan was rejected by the Traffic Advisory Committee at a previous meeting. A new plan was developed, proposing angled parking on the other side of the street. Mr. Redniss also suggested removing the island and installing parallel parking on the other side of the street.
- Mr. Orgera suggested working with the Board of Education to move the Bus Stop to Bridge Street.
- Mr. Orgera is concerned that angled parking will mean people going into the middle of the roadway. Angled parking will impact two lanes.
- Sgt. Weed stated that the sidewalks in this area are much larger than they really need to be and suggested to reduce the size of the sidewalks to give more room for parking. Mr. Orgera stated that this will be a major project.
- The Traffic Advisory Committee will revisit this request after Mr. Orgera discusses the proposal with Mani Poola and also contacts the Board of Education about moving the Bus Stop to Bridge Street.
- Representative John Zelinsky requested that the two area Representatives be invited to the meeting in which this request is discussed again.

### **Representative John Zelinsky – Sightline Issue at Fourth Street at the Intersection of Summer Street.**

- Representative Zelinsky informed the Traffic Advisory Committee that there is a sightline problem at the intersection of Fourth Street and Summer Street. When you come down Fourth Street and stop at the Stop Sign to enter Summer Street there is a large tree and bushes located at the right-hand side which seriously impair the sight for drivers.
- Representative Zelinsky asked if it's possible to ask the owner to trim the bushes and possibly take down the tree.

- Mr. Orgera stated that he will ask Mani Poola to go out and see if a violation exists. There is a Corner Restriction Policy that does not allow any growth over 3 ft. at the intersections. Mr. Poola will check if they are in violation of the Corner Restriction Policy and he will also make sure there is 200 ft. of sightline at that intersection.

### **Althea Brown and Natalie Levitt – Waterside Neighborhood Issues.**

- Ms. Natalie Levitt a resident of 602 Fairfield Avenue expressed her concerns as well as other neighbors with the amount of commercial vehicles going through their street. Ms. Levitt believes these commercial vehicles are going to Old Greenwich, Riverside and Greenwich.
- Ms. Levitt is concerned that the residents are breathing the pollution from all of these commercial vehicles.
- Ms. Levitt asked that Police reinforce the speed limit.
- Ms. Levitt would like No Thru Truck Traffic Signs to be installed. Mr. Orgera explained that a No Thru Truck is a vehicle that originates outside the City and its final destination is outside the City.
- Mr. Frank Fedeli suggested doing some truck restrictions due to the configuration and width of the street from the church to the Old Greenwich border. Mr. Fedeli suggested doing a width measurement in the vicinity of Ms. Levitt's home.
- Mr. Orgera asked Veera Karukonda to petition the State for No Thru Truck Traffic Signs for Fairfield Avenue. Mr. Orgera also asked Mr. Karukonda to look at Fairfield Avenue from Old Greenwich and bring it right down to Selleck Street.
- Captain Mullin stated there are Speed Monitors on Fairfield Avenue and Burwood Avenue.

### **Andrea Dunnam – American Diabetes Association – Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes – Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

- Ms. Dunnam needs to get a permit from the Board of Education to use Westhill High School.
- Police Officers need to be hired.
- The route is as follows:
  - Right out of school entrance to sidewalk on Roxbury Road
  - First Right on Overhill Road
  - First Left on Bancroft (uphill)
  - Right on Bancroft (downhill)

- First Bancroft Loop
- Second Bancroft Loop
- Left on Overhill Road
- Left on Roxbury Road – sidewalk
- Back to Westhill High School on left

Motion was made by Doug Hoyt, seconded by Officer Mike Skoumbros and passed unanimously to approve American Diabetes Association Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes on Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Christine Powers – MarcUS for Change 5K Run – Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

➤ The route is as follows:

- Start at the Pavilion at Cove Island Park
- Proceed out of the park and onto Weed Avenue
- Left on Matthews Street
- Left onto Dora Street
- Left onto Cove Road
- Back into the park
- Another loop around the park and end at the Pavilion

➤ Ms. Powers already has approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission to use Cove Island Park.

➤ Police Officers will be required.

Motion was made by Veera Karukonda, seconded by Paul Montanaro and passed unanimously to approve MarcUS for Change 5K Run on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Andrea Valvo – Ministerios Bethania CT – Uniendo Nuestras Voces – Walk from Shop Rite Market on Shippan Avenue to Cummings Park – Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

➤ This request has already been approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

➤ Ms. Valvo did not have a route and was asked to contact Sgt. Weed to put together a plan and then come back to see Mr. Orgera.

➤ No vote will be taken today.

## **Ann Brown – Stamford Urban Transitway Update.**

- Ms. Brown presented an update of the Stamford Urban Transitway to the Committee.
- A contract has been awarded to CJ Fucci. They already have their Street Opening Permit on East Main Street. A State Permit will also be needed.
- Six buildings will be coming down. This will be the first operation that will take place.
- Work is being proposed to start on East Main Street. The plans are to block off one side of the road, do the widening and all of the work behind the existing curb, the new curb and all of the underground sewers, storm sewers, and sanitary sewers.

The Utility Companies are coming in to upgrade or put their new lines in. When they finish one side they will go to the other side, finish the other side and then go to Myrtle Avenue. This plan will take place the rest of this year and probably spring of next year and then Myrtle Avenue. This is a two year project.

- AIE Engineers will be working on the project as they did with Phase I. AIE Engineers will be representing the City and overseeing all of the inspections. The City also has a Resident Engineer who will be in charge, Winston McKenzie.
- Two lanes of traffic are supposed to be maintained at all times.
- If there is ever an incident where they will need to close the road or stop traffic, they will plan that in advance and come back to the Committee.
- Some temporary pavement will be done on Myrtle Avenue to be able to widen the road and maintain the two lanes of traffic.
- There will be five lanes of 11 ft., 2 lanes on each direction and a turning lane in the middle and also two bike lanes. There will be no parking along Myrtle Avenue or East Main Street.
- There will be signs in all of the Bus Shelters that will give the real time for the bus schedules. All Connecticut Transit Busses in Stamford will have a GPS System and a Diagnostic System so that every bus can be located exactly where it is, so real time information can be provided. Signs with real time bus information will be installed at the Train Station and where the Bus Depot is.
- Ms. Brown will come back as construction progresses to give an update to the Committee.

**Jason Twedt – Pacific Swim, Bike, Run/YMCA of Stamford – Stamford Harbor Point Duathlon – Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 5:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 1:00 p.m. – 400 Adults.**

- The race consists of a 1 mile run followed by a 10 mile bike or a 20 mile bike and followed by a 5K.
- If Kosciuszko Park is going to be used for the 5K, the can only go around the ball field and will need approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Use of Cummings Park will also need approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Captain Wuennemann stated that the only concern with the bike route is the impact it will have on the churches.
- The streets impacted will be:
  - Washington Boulevard
  - Pacific Street
  - Ludlow Street
  - Jefferson Street
  - Hanover Street
  - Shippan Avenue
  - Ocean Drive West
  - Ocean Drive East
  - Soundview Avenue
  - Magee Avenue
  - Dock Street
  - Atlantic Street
  - And Cummings Park

Motion was made by Captain Wuennemann, seconded by Captain Bretthauer and passed unanimously to approve Jason Twedt's request for Pacific Swim, Bike, Run/YMCA of Stamford on Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Leslie Weinberg – Traffic Issues in Stamford.**

- The Traffic Advisory Committee reviewed e-mail from Ms. Leslie Weinberg in which she complained about Traffic Signals, Crosswalk and signage in Stamford.
- Mr. Orgera will respond to Ms. Weinberg and let her know that we will look at some of these major intersections and crosswalks and will have them tweaked if necessary.

## **New Business**

- Captain Tom Wuennemann informed that there is a sightline obstruction when you come out of Garden Street and want to make a left into Jefferson Street. Ernie Orgera asked Veera Karukonda to take a look at the obstruction and if necessary it will have to be cut down.
  
- Captain Bill Mullin informed that the people from the annual St. Teodoro Feast do not have a Street Use Permit. Mr. Orgera said that as long as they get the Street Use Permit there will be no problem, they come in front of the Traffic Advisory Committee every year for this event.

## **There will not be a Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting on August 2013.**

As there were no further business, motion was made by Captain Tom Wuennemann, seconded by Captain Bill Mullin to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted  
Margarita Arenas  
August 5, 2013