

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk, CT
November 20, 2019**

**7:00 p.m.
Rowayton Community Center**

PRESENT: Commissioners Tammy Langalis, Mike Barbis and John Igneri, District Treasurer Gil Kernan, District Fire Marshal and District Property Manager Ed Carlson, District Asst. Property Manager Jason O'Donnell, District Clerk Andrea Woodworth.

District Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She welcomed all of those in attendance, thanked them for attending and introduced the Commission.

Commissioner Mike Barbis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Igneri, to approve the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis introduced new District Treasurer Gil Kernan. While welcoming Mr. Kernan, she publicly thanked former District Treasurer Jim Hendrickson for his four years of work for the District.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Mike Barbis gave the following presentation on the planned Bayley Beach Intersection and Sidewalk Project:

Goals

- Slow traffic and improve safety in the vicinity of the entrance to both Bayley Beach and Roton Point
- Provide a safer exit from Bayley/Roton Point – visibility and exit angle currently compromised which has led to accidents

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- Create safe passage for pedestrians along what can be a crowded and busy street
- Improve aesthetics of the entry to both of our properties
- Minimal impact on environment.

One of the many charms of Rowayton is the ability to walk, jog, ride bicycles, and push strollers. Over the years, vehicle traffic has increased as well as the speed these vehicles travel. The 6TD is proposing a project to help keep pedestrians safe, and slow vehicles down. This will be done by creating a sidewalk on Pine Point Road, starting at the intersection of Roton Avenue, and continuing up to the Bayley Beach gate.

The idea of this sidewalk started 3 years ago and has been worked on since. Many factors have been taken into consideration while creating a plan for the project, including all interested groups, associations, neighbors, and tax-payers.

Recently, Rowayton as well as the entire city of Norwalk, is making a big push to create sidewalks for pedestrian safety. This is another step in the right direction for all members of the community.

Project Overview

- Remove fence and replace – 30 ft from the road
- Move fire hydrant- East on Pine Point Rd
- Remove up to 3 trees – up to 3 trees need to be removed in order to make the sidewalk
- Install 4 ft concrete sidewalk on Pine Point Rd – Sidewalk will be installed in the existing roadway, starting at the stone column. This would narrow the roadway to the city's minimum at points
- Install 3 ft concrete sidewalk on Roton Point/Bayley Beach driveway – Ending at Bayley Beach Gate. A minimum of 18 ft driveway will be maintained
- Install a small retaining wall along driveway sidewalk – appx 100 ft of stone wall will be needed
- Straighten driveway entrance to slow traffic entering the beach – straightened entryway would slow traffic while still being wide enough for an 18-wheel vehicle truck to enter and exit.
- Maintain hedge along RTA courts
- A total of \$195,000 was approved by electors in the 19/20 budget for the entire project (this was for the original version with a large expensive retaining wall)

(A map of the proposed project was distributed with the above goals and project overview)

After highlighting the above handout, Mr. Barbis said that the Commissioners have been worried for a long time about the safety of people who walk, push strollers, jog, etc. along that roadway. The speed of the traffic along this stretch of road is, they feel, excessive. The Commissioners engaged an engineering firm to provide a possible plan for the project. The Commissioners have met with the board of the Roton Point Club, but there are still some issues to be resolved between them. There have been lots of concerns about the landscaping of the area. The Commissioners acknowledge that there are many areas of the District that would benefit by the construction of sidewalks. However, that process involves the City of Norwalk and a long lead

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time. We can do this sidewalk now as it is on and/or adjacent to our property and the District has the go ahead from the city to use part of the present roadway. The City is going to look into a sidewalk on Hunt and Witch in their next budget. We have a state road in Rowayton and anything involving that has to go through the state which creates many problems. The fence at the north end of Bayley Beach is old, collects leaves and is unsightly. The District proposed to move this fence. The stone column from which the sidewalk will begin will probably be replaced with a directional sign pointing toward Bayley Beach and WeeBurn Beach Club. Mr. Barbis also noted that even though we have budgeted \$195,000 for the project, the estimate as the project is now proposed will cost \$146,000 including the landscaping improvements. A Wilson Avenue resident in attendance asked why we can't ask the city to pay for the sidewalk portion of the project. Mrs. Langalis said that it's hard enough to get any sidewalks from the city and it could take years once they approve of the project. We're using the Rowayton portion of the City of Norwalk taxes to pay for this so that the project can be done now.

Mary Finnegan, 10 Farm Creek Road, asked why the plan puts the fence so far into the trees. She feels there needs to be some sort of retaining wall down near the end. She asked if we have the money for this project now. It was explained that the electors of the District had already approved the money for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

Gary Leeds, 50 Hunt Street, asked what can we do to reduce the speed and would there be parking allowed along the road even during concerts. Mr. Barbis said that we write letters to the beaches, clubs and associations along that stretch every year asking them to remind their members, vendors, and staff to use caution and lower speed in that area. We have also used traffic trailers (the signs that flash the speed at which a car is approaching) but we can't do anything about the curve. We have put up signage for no parking along Pine Point Road. The RCA hires police to enforce the rule during concerts but that's not always done. It will need to be in the future since there won't be the room to park along the road once the sidewalk is installed.

Ann DiLeone, 34 Rowayton Avenue, asked if there was any chance there could be a bike lane there. Our engineer answered that that wasn't part of this proposal.

Betsy Bain, 78 Wilson, wanted to know about the removal of the trees and will they be replaced. Mrs. Langalis said that it is one of the things that are being taken into consideration. She also said that with a reduced cost estimate, the Commissioners will be able to put in large caliper trees to replace any, and as needed. They've recently planted four maples near the Little League field. Mrs. Bain also asked about the way that the No Parking zone will be enforced. It was answered that it will be posted and that we cannot have a No Parking zone on the other side of the street.

Stuart Lovejoy, 15 Sammis Street, asked what are the sticking points with Roton Point. Mrs. Langalis said that we're trying to work together. We don't know whether or not they need a vote of the owners.

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Mrs. Langalis introduced the District's counsel, Adam Blank.

Highland Avenue resident Steve Cordovano asked whether or not they could get a pathway through the woods at Bayley. Mr. Barbis said that the topography is more severe than you might expect and would prevent having a very usable walkway through that space. It would necessitate putting in steps at some point to come off the hill and would make the cost prohibitive.

A resident, 57 Roton Avenue, said he thought the plan looked great. He asked if any thought was given to obtaining commercial input and funding. That was not deemed advisable. We want to keep a low key atmosphere that fits with our community.

One resident volunteered to help plant trees at Bayley. It was noted that the District would accept appropriate donated trees.

Phyllis Padro, 19 Briar, said that since there are so many trees there adjacent to the proposed sidewalk, we should concentrate on the care and maintenance of the ones that will be there rather than worry about removing a few of the trees. She is most concerned with the oak trees which are dying. Vines kill many trees. She said that we should be careful to plan to have trees coming up. The Commissioners are in agreement with her.

Dave Wilson, a Craw Avenue resident, would like to see the installation of some stop signs to help slow the traffic. It was noted that the City does not regard stop signs as traffic calming.

Commissioner John Igeneri announced that he is no longer one of Rowayton's Common Council members. He introduced Lisa Shanahan who ran and was elected to replace Mr. Igeneri.

Lynn Oliver, 72 Roton Avenue, asked if the 3' wide sidewalk would be wide enough for a double stroller. Jason O'Donnell, the District Asst. Property Manager, replied to her in the affirmative. She wondered if pedestrians walking west on Pine Point Road would not have a sidewalk on their side of the street. It was stated that our goal is to have pedestrians go in both directions on the sidewalk.

Speaking of the turn into the Bayley Beach/Roton Point Club driveway being close to 90 degrees, it was noted that that would slow people down a lot.

Two residents (unidentified) said that the sidewalks are horrible in town. What's going to happen with this sidewalk in the years to come. The answer is that the Sixth Taxing District will be responsible for keeping the sidewalk clear and in good shape.

Another resident noted that the sidewalk wouldn't connect to anything. She would like to see a pedestrian right of way from Crockett Street toward the beach. The Taxing District would not have any jurisdiction over this. All the attendees were advised to call Customer Service at City Hall with any concern that they might have. Those concerns are then routed to the appropriate

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department for action. The Customer Service # is 203-854-3200. In order to help improve the safety of pedestrians walking along Rowayton Avenue from Cudlipp and on east to the RR Station, we encouraged the painting of a white line to give Rowayton Avenue a narrower feel and to encourage the slowing of traffic. It was noted that the Sixth Taxing District can control this sidewalk but we can't help with others as they are not on or near District property. Unfortunately, the building of a sidewalk often entails the taking of property. The process, even if the homeowners are amenable to the project, is lengthy.

It was suggested that maybe a yellow line be painted on the roadway if the "No Parking" signs don't seem to be working.

Amanda Kelly, 15 Nearwater, asked if 18-wheelers can turn in and out of the entrance to Bayley Beach with the new project. She was answered in the affirmative.

Another resident asked about using speed bumps to slow traffic. The resident was informed that the City will not put in any speed bumps any more. We have speed bumps now on the District/Roton Point driveway since that is on private property. The Commissioners said they would look into the feasibility of putting in a rise in the road like that in front of Roton Middle School but they wouldn't have anywhere to go on the other side and that is a requirement to putting in sidewalks and/or rises as at Roton. The rise at Roton M. S. is between two sidewalks.

A question was asked as to the speed limit on Pine Point and a resident suggested that it is 15 mph. We thought it was posted at 25 mph but will look into it.

Michael Diamond asked that more metal signs not be put up. The engineer in attendance addressed his concern.

Mrs. Langalis thanked everyone for coming out for this meeting and said that the Commissioners will take all of your suggestions into consideration. Ms. Kelly said that the Commissioners have the residents' support. The Commissioners were also congratulated on the web site and the email system to be able to disseminate information more easily. We have Andy Meyerson to thank for making that happen.

Mrs. Langalis said that we would be continuing the usual meeting and asked residents who were not interested in staying for that to please vacate the Moose Room.

The issue of recurring vandalism in the District was presented by Mr. Barbis saying that we have a Norwalk Police Department Community Policing Officer Jeremy Salley with whom we've been working. The District also employs another security guard to patrol areas, mostly in the summer months. They are sometimes successful and sometimes not in getting people to leave areas where they've been congregating, especially in the summer at the beach and after hours. We've put up motion lights at Bayley Beach, but the kids have unscrewed the lights. We're working on some other things. Some teens (we think) went to Bayley Beach after the season and

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upended picnic tables and some broke. We would like to find out who that was so they could be billed for the damage. They leave beer cans and other litter around. We are planning on erecting a taller, more secure gate while we're doing the Bayley Sidewalk Project. In order to operate security cameras, we would need internet coverage at the beach, which doesn't really exist as of now. We would like to get a handle on who these trespassers are. The District is running out of patience and may involve the police in trying to stop the vandalism. The parking lot at Rowayton School is also a usual place for these teens to congregate.

Covewood resident Andy Meyerson suggested writing something up about the vandalism and posting it on our web site. We would like the parents of these teens to realize what is going on. The time for these groups to congregate, especially behind Rowayton School, seems to be between 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. Resident Michael Diamond stated that he thought that a certain amount of public shaming may be the only way to discourage it. Another resident thought that neighbors have to take some responsibility if they see these things going on. Another resident thought that a warning and fine should be tried first before the perpetrator(s) is/are turned over to the police. He would hate to ruin a teen's life by resorting to prosecution. Mr. Barbis said that he had encountered about 80 teens hanging out at the paddle hut and fire pit. This can't go on. It was suggested that a posting to the web site should be done now and again in the spring as the cold weather will probably take care of the problem in the meantime.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that the sound absorption panels would go up soon in the Moose Room. They then hope to get some signage installed. We will look at estimates for replacing the windows, but the cost may be prohibitive. In response to a query by a resident, Mike Barbis said that we always try to get local contractors involved first.

Commissioner Tammy Langalis said that we had gotten grant money in the past for preservation work at the Community Center. We will certainly investigate all options before launching into such a project.

Mrs. Langalis also said that we are in the process of working with Fedor which will manage the "Barnacle" project at the train station. Resident Michael Diamond suggested that there doesn't seem to be enough room sometimes to pass cars of people dropping others off at the train station. He hopes the Commissioners will come up with a plan to make the station traffic a little less frantic in the mornings. He said that the way cars are parked, it's very difficult to get by the drop offs. Mrs. Langalis said that she will ask Ed and Jason to occasionally go to the Station to enforce safe traffic practices. We could maybe repaint some lines that are indistinct now.

The new District Treasurer, Gil Kernan, thanked everyone for making the transition between him and Jim Hendrickson, the outgoing Treasurer, go smoothly.

**Sixth Taxing District
Treasurer's Narrative Report
Commissioners' Meeting
November 20, 2019**

Handouts to Commissioners*:

- Budget v Actual report as of October 31, 2019 for FY 19-20
- Treasurer's Report of Bank Balances as of October 31, 2019
- Capital Funds Project Balances report
- Community Center Spending Summary Capital Projects report
- Fire Department Budget Modification
- Report of Bills Paid in October 2019

Comments on Reports:

- **Budget v Actual Report for FY 19-20**
 - Our income is at 49.7% of the budgeted income for FY 19-20.
 - Our expenses are currently at 35.6% of the budgeted expenses.
- **Capital Budget**
 - Including reserves, the capital account has a balance of \$338,004

Events:

- Treasurer Jim Hendrickson has been replaced by the new Treasurer, Gilbert Kernan.
- An Extension request will be sent to the State of CT for the Audit for FY 18-19 due to the change in Treasurer.
- An email was sent out to Dept. Supervisors for the Operating and Capital Budget requests for the FY20-21 Budget preparation.
- Grant Request letters for the FY20-21 Budget preparation were mailed. We asked for the requests to be returned by Dec. 2, 2019.

* Please note, these are preliminary drafts and not final audited reports.
(Statistical reports will appear at the end of the Minutes).

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In order to facilitate the purchase of new radios for the Rowayton Fire Department, the following explanations and motions were given:

Operating Fund to Capital Fire Dept. Equip. Purchases

Explanation:

- To re-appropriate available funds from the following Operating Expense Accounts to the Operating Fund Balance:
- Fire Dept., account #6310, amount \$15,000.

Motion:

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to re-appropriate available funds from the above listed Operating Expense account to fund the Operating Fund Balance”. (This motion passed unanimously)

Operating Fund to Capital Fire Dept. Equip. Purchases

Explanation:

- To re-appropriate available funds from the Operating Fund Balance to the Capital Fire Dept. Equip. Purchases, account #3540 in the amount of \$15,000 for the Motorola Radio Equipment Purchase.

Motion:

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to re-appropriate available funds from the Operating Fund Balance to the Capital Fire Dept. Equip. Purchases, account #3540”. (This motion passed unanimously).

Report of the District Fire Marshal	October 2019	Ed Carlson
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	2	3
Clerical (office) work		18
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	6
Career Development Training	***	***
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2
FNHCFMA	1	2
(Other) Permit signing	1	1
<hr style="display: inline-block; width: 450px; vertical-align: middle;"/> Total Man Hours:		33

Expenses: CTIAAI Conference/dues: \$325.00

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Remarks: I continue to distribute smoke detectors to residents. I attended CTIAAI Conference, very informative, excellent speakers.

Mr. Carlson advises everyone to be sure your heating systems are cleaned up for winter. He asked that residents call him with any questions they might have.

Report of the District Property Manager

November 2020

Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. Potting Shed gate apron completed.
2. New ramp for dogs installed in the Dog Park, which was paid for by those using the Dog Park.
3. Sound panels for Moose Room are being shipped on 11/27.
4. An AED has been relocated to the basement restroom for winter.

Bayley Beach:

1. All water is off and benches are stored.
2. Jason has obtained estimates to replace fence and gate.
3. The AED has been removed by Norwalk Hospital for the winter.
4. Some kayaks have not been removed. (The Clerk will notify kayak rack renters again to remind them to remove their craft from the racks for the winter).

Pinkney Park:

1. All repairs related to safety have been completed.
2. The fire alarm system in the Marine Building will be completed soon.
3. The AED sustained water damage and has been sent for evaluation.
4. The AED from the fire house has been relocated to the outside restroom.

R. R. Parking Lot:

1. Wendy Nardi has requested that a light be installed on the outside of the shed where she distributes the soups that have been ordered. She will be happy to share the cost.

Art Center:

1. An estimate has been received from Hellas Air Temp to replace the existing boiler and AC condenser with two heat pumps. Additional estimates will be obtained and there will be a discussion with the Art Center Director to determine the need.

Report of the District Clerk

November 20, 2019

Andrea Woodworth

1. When we say we'll have a copy of contract language and requirements in the Library (as in Al Kery's case) to bid on the garbage contract, it is a requirement to have a physical copy there. Al stopped in twice and both times the person on duty didn't know anything about it or its location. It was suggested that it could be uploaded to the web site, but I don't think everyone is comfortable with that format. It may be a bit of

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inconvenience for the person on duty at the Library, but it is only once every three years. I think they would like to not have it there.

2. Dick Packer has requested that he be able to schedule his Grasshopper soccer campers at the Community Center lawn and conduct his main camps from June 22 - 26 and June 29 – July 3, 2020. I have been in touch with the Quilters and they have graciously consented to cancel their quilting sessions on the Tuesday of both weeks. This is to guarantee a space for the older campers to go in case of inclement weather. They are too big a group to be accommodated in the Underground. He would use the Underground as a safe place for his Grasshopper group. He would like to hold camp sign ups in the Courtyard on the Monday morning of each camp. **APPROVED**
3. Roton Middle School has requested use of the Community Center on May 1 for a Fundraiser. We usually comp the rental fees for the school events. Would you approve doing this again? **APPROVED**
4. The approval letter for the 2020 Shakespeare on the Sound production of The Tempest starting on June 7 and finishing on July 8, 2020 as well as approval for their fundraiser ShakesBEERS, on June 6, 2020, has gone out.
5. I have ordered new letterhead stationery with Gil Kernan listed as Treasurer. I have also ordered 6TD business cards for Gil.

Commissioner John Igeneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the November 20, 2019 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Woodworth
Clerk, 6th Taxing District