

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk, CT
April 21, 2021**

Via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Barbis also said that the Dog park is closed and we are reseeded the field, as we do every year.

The April 21, 2021 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners to order at 7:04 p.m, by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis. Mrs. Langalis welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the Commission and took this opportunity to congratulate Jason O'Donnell and his wife on the birth of their second daughter.

The Minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion to approve as amended by Commissioner John Igneri. Mike Barbis seconded the motion. The Minutes of the Commissioners Update which occurred after the Annual Meeting on March 3 were approved as amended on a motion by Commissioner John Igner which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a short discussion of the fact that Hill Top Homes is a non-taxable entity that the District approves of this fact and that a resolution for it to continue in that state there needs to be a resolution which is required every ten years. Mrs. Langalis made the following resolution: "The Commissioners of the Sixth Taxing District of the City of Norwalk, CT resolve that they fully support the renewal of the current tax abatement agreement between Rowayton Senior Living Corporation (aka Hilltop Homes) and the City of Norwalk for a period not exceeding 40 years". This resolution was seconded by Commissioner John Igneri who said that this extension is made every 10 years. Once we approve it, the Common Council will approve it. This resolution was passed unanimously on a vote by the Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Langalis gave an update on the Rowayton Railroad Station. She said the District would like

to enter into a change of lease agreement with the State of CT in which we will now be

MINUTES – April 21, 2021

Page Two

responsible for the Rowayton Train Station House. We are planning on allowing a business to open there. It will be a café of some sort. We're up to about 25 daily parkers now. Hopefully that will increase. Commissioner Barbis asked if Mrs. Langalis would review where we are on renewing permits.

Mrs. Langalis said that we had switched to an annual renewal of parking permits for the Rowayton RR Station. We sold about 450 permits for the year. That was down about 80 for regular renewals. Ed Carlson, our Railroad Parking Lot Administrator has communicate with all the people now on the Wait List and has received very few responses to his letter. He thinks that we will clear some from the Wait List by early June. We will start annual renewals on June 1 for everyone. We wanted to have a system where all permits start and stop on the same date for everyone. We are no longer offering permits on a monthly basis. Mr. Carlson said that he had sent out 127 letters and had not heard back from 103 of them as of yet. They have until May 1 to respond. /several people have signed up for a permit but have not paid as of yet. A number of former commuters probably won't go back to commuting until early September. There will also be a number who won't reapply.

Drew Seath of the new Rowayton Pickle Ball Association reported that they have 3 temporary courts now at the railroad station. They have temporary fences. Now the state says that they are putting in some communication cables and the fences might have to be removed. They will wait as long as possible to do this but the fences can be moved fairly easily. Mr. Seath reported that they have started play at the temporary courts and it is very popular with Rowaytonites.

McKinley Street resident Priscilla Feral spoke to the attendees about pesticides. She said that in 2013 the Sixth District made the commitment to make their properties pesticide free. She thinks this is of great benefit to the community. She thanked the Commissioners for making the District properties pesticide free. When she talks to people about going pesticide free, they are very impressed to hear that the District is pesticide free and they are more likely to agree to go pesticide free themselves. Ms. Feral said that people don't realize how hazardous Round-Up is. It's dangerous to people, pollinators, children, birds, animals, and insects. If fertilizers are not immediately taken up by a plant, they go immediately into the ground water. She said that the Darien Gardeners Center is a great resource for information on various products.

Paul Curtin, representing the RCA at the meeting, said that he has had a couple of conversations with Lynne Pratt who has traditionally organized the Memorial Day Parade. He said that we do have a state permit if we decide to organize a parade this year. There has also been discussion about holding a memorial at the cannon only. Mr. Curtin said that they are open to other ideas.

He feels that a parade could be put together pretty quickly. They would like to leave it as a “maybe” until the Dept. of Health issues other COVID guidelines. We would, of course, have to

MINUTES – April 21, 2021

Page Three

follow the CT regulations. He thought it would be good for the community. The Commissioners gave the RCA permission to organize something if the conditions are right.

The possibility of having the Fireworks this year was discussed. Another resident commented that most of the other communities in the area are planning on having fireworks. Darien, however, is not having them. Commissioner Mike Barbis indicated that the Commissioners are OK with going ahead with the fireworks at the beach if conditions permit.

Mr. Curtin also raised the possibility of having the fundraiser River Ramble the weekend after the fireworks. They’d like to proceed as if they are going to have it and will cancel if needed. Mr. Barbis said that he saw no reason not to go ahead with the planning of the River Ramble.

Mrs. Langalis said that we’ll all stay in touch and decide what a Memorial Day would look like this year. Mr. Curtin said that after a year of COVID restrictions, you can anticipate a lot of people showing up for almost anything.

REPORTS

Commissioner John Igneri had nothing to report.

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that the biggest issue right now is the work to expand the Ambler Parking Lot. We did need to get the approval from the Conservation Commission, which they have. The project planning is going along quite well. We hope to add 18 spaces to that parking lot.

Mr. Barbis also said that the drainage project at Bayley Beach is further along now than we have ever been over the years. The engineers recommend dividing the project into parts. The open culvert should be changed to a closed culvert.

Mr. Barbis announced that the District has hired a new Beach Director and a new Asst. Beach Director. The beach director will be the one point person for all things happening at the beach. He also said that the District has been in the process of moving the sand that has migrated to the parking lot and spreading it on the beach. We have been advised not to buy new sand, as several people have proposed, since another big storm would wash it all away. The Playground is still closed. A downed tree took part of the fence. We will be getting a new fence installed where needed and will spread new chips. The bathrooms at the beach are open. We are having a company to come in to clean the bathrooms twice a week before the seasons starts.

Mr. Barbis also said that the Dog park is closed and we are reseeded the field, as we do every year.

MINUTES – April 21, 2021

Page Four

District Treasurer Gil Kernan said that Mrs. Langalis is going to submit a request to approve some money to be added to the bonding. These items have already been approved at the Annual Meeting on March 3, 2021. Mr. Kernan also said that he has submitted the list of checks paid to the Commissioners.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis made a motion to approve the Ambler parking lot borrowing in the amount of \$350,000 as presented at the Annual Budget Meeting on March 3, 2021. This is to expand the district parking lot in the village to 61 spaces (approx..) from its current 43 spaces. Commissioner John Igneri seconded the motion which passed unanimously

Chair Tammy Langalis made a motion to approve the Rowayton Fire Department communications borrowing in the amount of \$200,000 as presented at the Annual Budget Meeting, March 3, 2021. This is to upgrade the communications equipment for all emergency responders within Rowayton, Norwalk, and the neighboring towns, as mandated by the State of Connecticut. Commissioner Mike Barbis seconded the motion which passed unanimously,

Report of the District Fire Marshal	March 2020	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	***	***
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings:		
District monthly	1	1
FNHCFMA	1	1
CTIAAI	1	
		Total Man Hours 27

Expenses: CFMA Conference: \$100.00

Remarks: Two recent incidents involving improper disposal of fireplace ashes resulted in structure fires which could have caused serious damage if not discovered early. Always dispose of ashes in a covered metal bucket and keep for 48 – 72 hours.

