

Board of Selectmen
August 23, 2017
APPROVED MINUTES

The Westport Board of Selectmen, Traffic Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority held a public hearing on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 307/309 of the Westport Town Hall. in attendance were Jim Marpe, Avi Kaner, Helen Garten, Eileen Flug, Ira Bloom, Steve Edwards, Sam Arciola, Foti Koskinas, Sue Pfister, Gary Conrad, presenters as noted in the minutes, members of the public, and Eileen Francis, recording secretary.

MINUTES

1. Item #1 was presented by Avi Kaner. There were no revisions. Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's public hearing of August 9, 2017 and the Water Pollution Control Authority's public hearing of August 9, 2017 are hereby APPROVED.

ITEM #2 WAS DISCUSSED AFTER ITEM #6

2. Acting in its capacity as the Traffic Authority, to review and discuss possible options for traffic control on the town-owned roadway known as Greens Farms Road.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Jim Marpe initiated the discussion to address concerns associated with increased traffic and speeding on Green's Farms Road. Mr. Marpe explained that he had asked Steve Edwards and the Police Department to present information and possible options to alleviate the traffic. Deputy Police Chief Arciola explained that that Green's Farms Road location made it a natural cut through and detour when I-95 was congested. Current technological advances in GPS and traffic application technology cause additional traffic. For example, the fact that the applications are "aware" of when traffic subsides at a location only promotes additional traffic in the area, despite best efforts by the Police Department to manage and ease congestion. Traffic controls, such as speed humps, STOP signs and "no through traffic" signs act as a deterrent only, and may have unintended consequences that adversely affect surrounding roadways. Residents Eleanor and Dick Lowenstein, Jennifer Johnson, Peter Gold, and David Jones provided a list of possible areas where road signs and other traffic control devices could be utilized. Director of Public Works Steve Edwards stated that a number of the suggestions were worthwhile, but that there were engineering constraints associated with them (i.e. rights of way, sightlines, standard width requirements for sidewalks and bike paths). The Board agreed that the conversation was important and that the suggestions would be reviewed.

APPROVE USE OF IMPERIAL PARKING LOT FOR FARMERS MARKET FUNDRAISER EVENT ON SEPT 14

3. Item #3 was presented by Lori Cochran, Executive Director of the Westport Farmers Market. Ms. Cochran explained the proposed set up and logistics for the first-time event. Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the use of Town-owned property known as Imperial Avenue Parking Lot on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. for the Westport Farmers Market fundraiser dinner,

contingent upon compliance with recommendations from Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

ACCEPT LITHOGRAPH *HOSE COMPANY #4* BY STEVEN DOHANOS

4. Item #4 was presented by Town Curator and Arts Advisory Committee member Kathie Bennewitz. Ms. Bennewitz provided historical background. Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Westport Arts Advisory Committee and in accordance with the Policy for Gifts to the Town, the lithograph, *Hose Company #4* by Steven Donahos is hereby ACCEPTED for inclusion in the Westport Public Arts Collection.

APPROVE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT AND UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN FOR DIETICIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE WESTPORT CENTER FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES

5. Item #5 was presented by Sue Pfister, Director of the Center for Senior Activities, acting on behalf of the Human Services Director. Ms. Pfister explained that this is the third year that the program has operated at the WCSA. The interns provide various services related to the meals services at the Center, including demonstrations and lectures. Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Affiliation Agreement between the Town of Westport and the University of New Haven as it relates to the Dietetic Internship Program is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT AND RSM US, LLP

6. Item #6 was requested by Finance Director Gary Conrad. Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Business Associate Agreement by and between the Town of Westport and RSM US, LL is hereby APPROVED.

7. *Acting in its capacity as the Traffic Authority, to finalize its decision on the request by Aquarion Water Company to close portions of Myrtle Avenue, and to authorize nighttime construction on Myrtle Avenue between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., for work associated with a water main replacement, and to continue discussion of the request that Aquarion postpone the water main replacement.*

Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Flug presented background, orientation, timeline and regulations related to the original request for a permit/road closure/nighttime construction work for this project. It was determined that the request for the nighttime work was rescinded/withdrawn and that portion of the original motion was no longer being discussed.

Upon motion by Helen Garten, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, the original item of August 9, 2017 was taken OFF the table.

Discussion on the road closure and the request to postpone continued.

Aquarion Water Company representative Alan Huth stated that the company was not prepared to postpone the project until 2018 as the Board had previously requested. However, he was prepared to postpone until September 18 to allow for consideration of the first days of the new school year. Director of Public Works Steven Edwards and Mr. Huth showed plans; demonstrated the process by which the “rolling closures” would occur; the approximate timing for each phase of the closures, and; considerations for allowing access for emergency vehicles, businesses and residents in the neighborhood during construction. BOE Bus Coordinator Sandra Evangelista explained how the BOE, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, the construction companies and DATTCO, typically and generally manage road closures.

Residents stated that the disruption in the area, especially at the start of the school year, was problematic. Discussion returned to postponement until 2018. Town Attorney Ira Bloom provided input as to the possible implications if Aquarion appealed a revocation of the permit to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA). Mr. Huth stated that he would again ask his supervisors about the possibility of postponement.

Upon motion by Avi Kaner, seconded by Jim Marpe, and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that acting in its capacity as the Local Traffic Authority, the Board of Selectmen do hereby request that Director of Public Works Steven Edwards revoke the permit issued on August 1, 2017 to the Aquarion Water Company as it relates to the construction work associated with the installation of a water main and subsequent road closures on the town roadway known as Myrtle Avenue.*

* on August 24, 2017, Aquarion Water Company agreed to postponement and requested that the Department of Public Works issue a road opening permit associated with the water main replacement project on Myrtle Avenue to be conducted for the spring, 2018 construction season. As the agent for the Board of Selectmen, the Department of Public Works intends to approve that permit administratively.

Upon motion by Avi Kaner, seconded by Helen Garten and passing by a vote of 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Eileen Francis
Recording Secretary