

HAMDEN BOARD OF TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2012

Attending: Michael Iezzi, Gerald Migliaro, Mitchell Strickland, Police Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello, Town Attorney Gruen

Absent: Raeann Curtis, Robert LaTorraca

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Iezzi entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2012. Mr. Migliaro motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Strickland. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Department Report

- a. Review of department activity – Chief Wydra reported that a considerable amount of line painting has been done. A vendor for other work has been selected Garden State Highway and he will be meeting with them to go over the plans. Chief Wydra advised the Commission of an Online Petition from the Spring Glen residents looking for overhead traffic signals on Whitney Ave. He will keep the Commission informed of the status of this.
- b. Items of concern – Nothing at this time.
- c. Review of Site Plans – none at this time.
- d. Correspondence – none at this time.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Diane Hoffman, 190 Wilmot Road - Ms. Hoffman is here to request to ban on street parking in front of 190 Pine Rock Ave. Ms. Hoffman has a petition signed by 17 residents. Ms. Hoffman feels this is a matter of public safety. She went on to mention that she had been in contact with Leslie Creane the Town Planner (June and August) and also with Chief Wydra on August 30, 2012. On November 8, 2012 Ms. Hoffman sent an email to Chairman Iezzi addressing her concerns. *(A copy of the email was enclosed in the November 14, 2012 Commission packet.)* Ms. Hoffman went on to review information she stated she found in the minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2012 where the parking was approved. Ms. Hoffman also stated she had attended the meeting of the Planning and Zoning for Tuesday, December 13, 2012 and that there were questions about the statement by Attorney Pellegrino that “it was the best project they had and they had all the parking they needed.” Attorney Pellegrino stated to Ms. Hoffman after her question to him as to “why more spaces were need if they had all the spaces they need,” she was told it was for their guests. Ms. Hoffman went on to point out that there are drainage problems on Pine Rock Ave. and a more serious conditions will exist when it snows. As it is the road is traveled by large trucks to and from the transfer station and Tilcon. Chairman Iezzi thanked her for her input and this will be discussed further when the item comes up

on the agenda. Ms. Hoffman also asked what the process is for information being available and posted on the Town website. The clerk explained that she creates the agenda by the Friday if she has all the information by Thursday prior to the meeting and sends it to the Mayor's office by Friday for posting. There have been situations where Monday is a holiday therefore the information is not posted until Tuesday the day before the meeting and also that the individual doing the posting has been out of the office at times which has delayed the posting.

Lisa Kameneto Kleintjes, 114 Carlton St. – Ms. Kleintjes brought up the petition mentioned by Chief Wydra and inquired if it will trump all the work done over the last three years by the residents and the WCA, Fitzgerald and Halliday report and recommendations. Ms. Kleintjes stated she hopes the petition will be looked at but in the bigger picture of all the other recommendations.

Sarah Clark, 4032 Whitney Ave. – Ms. Clark is looking for the report from Chief Wydra on the Canal Crossings and notes that certain totems have been taken and was wondering if this was brought to the Chief's attention. Ms. Clark also wanted to address two items that do not appear on the agenda. Chairman Iezzi respectfully asked that comments be kept to those on the agenda but Ms. Clark continued with her questions, one being that the Chief mentioned at the November 2012 meeting that an RFP would be going out and wanted to know the status. At this time Chief Wydra advised the Commission and Ms. Clark that this was being handled by the Mayor's office and his Chief Executive Assistant. The second question pertained to Traffic Calming. Ms. Clark wants to know why comments are solicited before the item on the agenda is addressed and that there isn't always back up from the website for the residents to review so when they come to the meetings they can make their feelings known about the items. Chairman Iezzi understands Ms. Clark's point and feels it is a very good one and noted that the Commission has been very liberal in allowing the conversation to go back and forth but that the Commission needs to have an open mind and not get into a debate. Ms. Clark asked "what is wrong with a debate." Chairman Iezzi noted this is not the forum for a debate. Ms. Gruen noted that it is up to the Commission to have public comments or not, they set the agenda. Ms. Clark stated "how can the residents be informed, especially this cluster of items on the agenda and how they have requested they be posted. (There is no back up documents due to the items being tabled from the previous month.) Ms. Clark brought up the meetings of the P& Z and how they provide detail information to the public. Chief Wydra asked if he could speak, with Chairman Iezzi stating yes. Chief Wydra noted that you can't compare the P&Z with the Traffic as the P& Z has a full time clerk who handles the planning, development and creating their agenda. He noted the Traffic Dept. has two (2) employees where they had six (6) just a few years ago and the six included clerical staff but that is no longer the case. Ms. Clark brought up that their request to post everything was made a year and a half ago and that the Chief offered to make it possible and it did happen. Ms. Clark noted that she has come to the last three meetings for the "Farmington Canal" information and nothing has been addressed. *(There is no documentation for this as it was a verbal request of Chairman Iezzi to the clerk to put this on the agenda for the September meeting. It*

was noted on the October 10, 2012 agenda that there was no documentation.) The Chief stated that this item should not have appeared on the agenda. *(The clerk stated that it was a tabled item, but it was in fact a statement by the Chief that he and Chairman Iezzi would meet sometime during the month and review the situation and come back in December with a report.)* Unfortunately due to circumstances that arose during the month the meeting wasn't possible. Ms. Clark continued to state that the public can't make fully informed comments in advance if they don't know what's being presented. A somewhat aggressive discussion on the part of the Public took place with Chairman Iezzi stating that this is not the time for this discussion and that they will review the process for possible changes.

Old Business

- a. Farmington Canal – “Stop” signs – This item will not be covered at this time.
- b. Mather St. & Waite St. – Chief Wydra didn't have any follow up information at this time.
- c. Waite St. status of changes from Chief Wydra – – Chief Wydra stated that the speed humps, line painting and temporary signs have been done.
- d. Pine Rock Ave. parking concerns – Again the public continued to address the Commission with Chief Wydra stating again that the P&Z and Traffic don't always agree on things and Chairman Iezzi state that the situation will be evaluated and addressed again at a future meeting.

New Business

Open Discussion – Commission/Department Heads – Ms. Clark stated she would like to hear from Mr. Strickland regarding his attendance at the presentation of Mr. Gomes. Mr. Strickland stated that Mr. Gomes has some good ideas but of course the funding is a big question and that there were some cost effective ideas. *(Mr. Strickland didn't have any printed matter from this meeting and Ms. Clark didn't offer any.)*

Adjournment

At 6:38 p.m. Mr. Strickland motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Migliaro. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The next meeting will be Wednesday January 9, 2013 in the Activity Room at the Miller Library Complex 6:00 p.m.

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk