

HAMDEN BOARD OF TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
APRIL 9, 2014

Attending: Michael Iezzi, Robert LaTorraca (by phone), Mitchell Strickland, Police Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello, Town Attorney Sue Gruen

Absent: Raeann Curtis, Betty Murray

Call to Order

Chairman Iezzi called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

1 Approval of Minutes

Chairman Iezzi entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2014. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to approve the minutes of March 12, 2014, seconded by Mr. Strickland. *The motion carried unanimously.*

2 Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Tawanna Gaskins, 957 Winchester Ave. - Ms. Gaskins is requesting a handicapped parking sign be installed in front of her residence. She noted that her current medical condition is the reason for the request. She understands that anyone with handicapped privileges can use the space but this would be helpful to her when her neighbors have visitors to leave the space available to her.

Mr. Randy Brunson, 55-57 First St. – Mr. Jeremiah Brunson came to represent Mr. Randy Brunson and explained that Mr. Randy Brunson is requesting the sign due to recent transplant surgery and having a prosthesis right leg. This would be very helpful to Mr. Brunson for the numerous doctor appointments he has to attend.

Ms. Alberta Bickham, 98 Third St. - Ms. Bickham is requesting approval of a Block Party, for Third St. between Warren and Beaver and will be the 2nd Annual for this event. The event will be on August 23, 2014 and Ms. Bickham is hoping the Commission will approve her request.

3 Communications

3.1 Planning and Zoning applications:

3.1.1 Water Storage Tank 280 Broadway – Chief Wydra noted this is a replacement of the existing tank and will have no impact on traffic. No action required for this item.

4 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Request – handicapped parking sign at 957 Winchester Ave. by Tawanna Gaskins – after a brief discussion Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the request for a handicapped parking sign at 957 Winchester Ave., seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. *The motion carried unanimously.*

4.2 Request- handicapped parking sign at 55-57 First Street by Randy Brunson – after a brief discussion Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the request for a handicapped

parking sign at 957 Winchester Ave., seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.3 Request for approval – 6th Annual Earth Day bike ride “Rock to Rock” – April 26, 2014 – Chief Wydra advised the Commission this item doesn’t require approval and request it be removed.

4.4 Undergraduate Commencement, Quinnipiac University May 18, 2014 – This is an annual event in which the university and the department work together. Chief Wydra recommends approval. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to approve the request by Quinnipiac University, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.5 Request for approval – 3rd Annual “Hamden Hill Half Marathon 5K”
- May 31, 2014 – Chief Wydra recommends the Commission approve this request. The previous events went very well and Mr. Tebbetts has always coordinated everything with the department. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to approve the 3rd Annual Hamden Hill Half Marathon 5K event to take place on May 31, 2014, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.6 Request for approval – Block party from Ms. Bickham, August 23, 2014 – Chief

Wydra noted this is the second year for the event and that last year everything ran smoothly and he recommends the Commission approve this request. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the request for the 3rd St. Block Party to be held August 23, 2014, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.7 Request approval -2014 “Closer to Free Ride” September 6, 2014 - This event is very well attended, it is a great fund raiser and has run very smoothly every year. Chief Wydra recommends this request be approved. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve this request for the Closer to Free Ride to be held on September 6, 2014, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.8 Planning and Zoning applications:

4.8.1 22 Hamden Park Dr. Ext. and 0 Putnam Ave. – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that this is a proposed 660 unit Self Storage facility with a driveway to be created onto Putnam Ave. with minimal traffic impact and that no action needs to be taken.

4.9 Consideration for “No Parking” designation on Colony St. near Dixwell Ave. – Chief Wydra explained that a parking problem has come about from the new bank recently built. The plan provided by Chief Wydra notes there will be no impact to the local residents. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the plans presented by Chief Wydra and based on his recommendation, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.10 Consideration for “No Parking” designation near Thompson St. near Dixwell Ave. – This is the same situation as item number 4.9. Chief Wydra has provided plans showing what will be done to help relieve the problem and again this will not impact the local residents. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the plans presented by Chief Wydra and bas on his recommendation, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.11 Consideration for – approval of stop signs and painted In-Street traffic island to be installed on Thornton St. at the intersection of Thornton St/Greenway and Thornton St/Wakefield St. – Chief Wydra provided plans showing the painting – This item was

brought to the attention of the Traffic Authority by the residents. Chief Wydra has comments from residents supporting this request. There are sight line issues, the painted island will help decrease speed and he recommends the plan be approved. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the request, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.12 Whitneyville Municipal parking lot – Whitney Ave/Ralston Ave – Parking space allocation – Chief Wydra is in the process of preparing to have the parking lot re-painted and that in doing so two additional parking spaces may be acquired. He would like to change the number of “limited time” parking spaces from four to six. A resident Barbara Callahan addressed the Commission asking if the parking lot in the rear of the Board of Education building on Putman could be utilized. A brief discussion ensued and the lot is extensively used by the BOE so this would not be possible. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the improvements planned for the Municipal Lot on Whitney Ave. as described by Chief Wydra increasing the limited time spaces from four to six and creating new spaces with the painting of the lines, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chief Wydra requested the Commission to add item number 4.13 to the agenda, The Hamden Road Race. Mr. Strickland motioned to add the Hamden Road Race to the agenda, this will be item number 4.13, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.13.2014 The Hamden Road Race – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that the route for this event is the same as last year and that the event went very well. Chief Wydra recommends this request be approved. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the Hamden Road Race provided the event coordinator meets all the necessary requirements as in the past, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

5 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Rocky Top Road traffic flow issues – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that in a period of 84 hours 31 vehicles traveled the wrong way on the road. He would like to change the road back to a two way road temporarily while he reviews possible ways to rectify the problem. Mr. Strickland motioned to temporarily change the road back to a two way road until a solution can be found for this situation, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

6 OPEN DISCUSSION – Nothing at this time.

7 ADJOURNMENT

At 6:48 p.m. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 14, 2014 in the Activity Room at the Miller Library Complex 6:00 p.m.

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk