

HAMDEN BOARD OF TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MAY 14, 2014

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

Call to Order

Vice Chairman LaTorraca called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1 Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman LaTorraca entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2014. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the minutes of April 9, 2014, seconded by Mr. Iezzi. *The motion carried unanimously.*

2 Public Petition/Commentary

Mr. Philip Tiso, 165 Thornton St – Mr. Tiso referred to his letter to Chief Wydra dated May 7, 2014 in which he notes his concerns. He noted that there have only been two accidents that he recalls. He stated that his intersection was not in the Traffic Calming report thus didn't understand why all the signs. He and all his neighbors are concerned about speeding and it was stated that this was done to slow down traffic but in actuality it hasn't had that effect. He also noted that Chief Wydra submitted documents from residents "supporting" this request but no comments "not supporting" the request and questions why only comments in "support" are on the record. He feels there are other methods that should be researched and brought to the community before being implemented

Ms. Marsh Walsh, 680 Hartford Tpke. – Ms. Walsh is the president of the Spring Glen Civic Association. She noted that traffic is a concern not only in Spring Glen but all over Hamden. The lesson learned is that not to just adopt a plan and implemented it but address it with the residents it impacts. She noted an existing video showing drivers not stopping as hoped. She is asking the Commission to rescind the decision of April 9, 2014 and to move forward in creating a better plan. She thanked Chief Wydra for his time and for coming to the meetings with the residents.

Ms. Mira Debs, 64 Wakefield St. – Ms. Debs is one of the residents who wanted the signs and feels they are working. As like the other residents she feels a review of the decision and possibly another method in the best interest of all can be reached.

Ms. Evelyn Cumberbatch, 147 Thornton St. - Ms. Cumberbatch is requesting more involvement in the future decisions of the neighborhood. She feels there is a difference between Thornton and Bedford and Thornton and Wakefield. She has young children and fears for their safety like all the other neighbors.

Mr. Eric Annis, 200 Thornton St. – Mr. Annis is the District Councilman and apologizes to the neighbors for not communicating more with them for input. There is a strong support for calming and is glad that the residents and the Chief are interested in looking at other methods that are appropriate for the area.

At this time Ms. Curtis motioned to move item number 4.2 in front of the other items on the agenda before it so action can be taken on it, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.2 Chief Wydra recommends line painting, solid white lines and double yellow lines, slow painted in the street and three painted crosswalks and feels this will calm traffic and that all this is a short term solution.

Mr. Strickland motioned to table this item for the June 11, 2014 meeting to give the Commissioner's more time to visit the area and review the plan submitted by Chief Wydra, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. Barbara Callan, 71 Augur St. – Ms. Callan is concerned with the traffic on Augur St. and wanting to keep parking on the south side of the street. The “Stop” sign at Augur and Carlton is virtually ignored by vehicles. They roll up to the sign and continue without any regard to possible oncoming traffic to the left or right of their vehicles. She appreciates any help in this matter.

3 Communications

3.1.1 Site plan #14-1489/WS, Roof-top Wireless Telecommunications Facility T 1732 Dixwell Ave. – After a review no action needs to be taken on this item

3.1.2 Special permit & Site plan #12-1207 Application to amend 1315 Dixwell Ave. – Mr. David Sacco presented information regarding this application. The current daycare center would like to increase the enrollment from 133 children to 224 children. They will be using the existing vacant space and feels there is enough parking to accommodate the number of students.

Chief Wydra reviewed the report provided and he is concerned about the number of vehicles and possible traffic problems when entering and exiting the property.

Attorney Gruen noted there are other businesses in the complex and if they decide to expand or change they will need the parking spots currently not in use. Also Turning left onto Dixwell Ave. is a challenge in itself.

Chief Wydra also noted that with the closing of the Stop and Shop new businesses will be coming into the area.

Ms. Murray is very concerned, she lives in the area and uses the parking lot in question and turning left out of the driveway is dangerous as it is.

Ms. Curtis inquired about how many cars presently park in the lot – the response was maybe a dozen or 20.

Mr. Steve Ulman reviewed the traffic flow information provided to the Commission noting that with creating a right and left turn lane out of the driveway there will be sufficient time for the traffic to turn left onto Dixwell Ave.

Mr. Paul Harmon addressed the Commission advising them that all 224 clients will not be arriving and leaving at the same time. The drop offs' start at 6:30 a.m. and continue in intervals until approximately 9:30 a.m. The afternoon is the same procedure; pickups start at approximately 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. and continue until approximately 6:30 p.m. He also noted that they will only have approximately 20 children graduating this year and should the numbers increase they would move the event to a more suitable location.

Mr. Kops from Planning and Zoning noted that the parking is not the issue but the increase in volume of traffic.

Ms. Curtis motioned that a letter to Planning and Zoning be drafted and sent for review to the Chairman indicating an unfavorable recommendation for the plan as submitted #12-1207 Harmony Kids Connecticut, LLC, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

3.1.3 Special permit & Site plan #14-1236/WS, Elm City Management, 19 Marne St. (rear) (aka 41 Marne St.). – No action need be taken on the request.

3.1.4 Special permit & Site plan #14-1235, Wayfaring Ministries, 29 Marne St. (rear) (aka 41 Marne St.). – No action need be taken on the request.

3.1.5 Zoning map amendment #14-942, Tamberlain Harris, 1247 Whitney Ave. aka 1253 Whitney Ave.) – No action need be taken on this request.

3.1.6 Written Communication from Thornton Street residents regarding recently installed “Stop” signs. – The Commission approved a plan with the best interest of the residents, it was implemented and the response from the residents was a strong negative to the plan. At this time Chief Wydra is recommending the original approval be rescinded and all actions at Thornton and Bedford, “Stop” signs and “No Parking” signs be removed and a different plan be reviewed. Please see item 4.2 all actions on this item are tabled.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Request for road closure at the intersect of Dixwell Ave and Morse St – 52nd Annual Freddie Fixer Parade May 18, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. - – Chief Wydra noted that this is an annual event that Mr. Smith organizes each year and works with the Police Department for their participation. Ms. Murray motioned to approve the request for the Freddie Fixer Parade to be held on May 18, 2014, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.2 Thornton Street – “Stop” signs and request from Chief Thomas J. Wydra –Chief Wydra reviewed the decision of the Commission of April 9, 2014 and states that the changes requested were in the best interest of the residents. It turns out the implementation of the request have had a negative impact on the residents. Chief Wydra attended a meeting of the Spring Glen Civic Association on April 30, 2014 at which time the residents voiced their strong opposition to the changes. Chief Wydra is recommending an appeal of the decision and has new information and a design for the area. Mr. Strickland motioned to table this item for the June 11, 2014 meeting to give the Commissioner’s more time to visit the area and review the plan submitted by Chief Wydra, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.3 Request “No Parking” sign 28 Gorham Ave. – Mr. Robert Cappella the new owner of the auto shop at the location is looking for the sign because vehicles currently parking in the spot are creating a “blind spot” and it is dangerous. Attorney Gruen questioned the P&Z requirement from when the business was approved and just wants to be sure that the zoning doesn’t allow the sign. Ms. Curtis motioned to approve the installing of a “No Parking” sign based on the Chief checking with P&Z to be sure it is oaky for the sign, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.4 Traffic safety concerns aqt6 Augur Street and Carlton Street – After a brief discussion Chief Wydra proposes spot enforcement at Augur and Carlton, a speed compliance sign and vehicle data. Based on the information gathered Chief Wydra will bring the information to the Commission for the June 2014 Meeting.

4.5 Request major amendment to special permit – expansion of Harmony Kids Day Care Center at 1315 Dixwell Ave. – Please see page two Communications.

4.6 Request authorization letter – Don’s Hat Rock 10th Annual Motorcycle Rally,

June 1, 2014 for approval – Chief strongly recommends the approval of this request

Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the Don’s Hat Rock 10th Annual Motorcycle Rally,

June 1, 2014, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

4.7 Request to add Hamden Road Race 5K and 1K Kids Fun Run 2014, seconded by Ms. Murray. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chief Wydra recommends approval of the request. The organizer has held a number of races the last few years and coordinates with the Police Department for services needed. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the Hamden Road Race 5K and 1K Kids Fun Run 2014, seconded by Ms. Murray. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

5 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Rocky Top Road traffic flow issues – Chief Wydra advised the Commission he wasn’t able to get all the information ready for the meeting and would like this to appear on the June 2014 agenda. Ms. Curtis motioned to table the item for the June 11, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

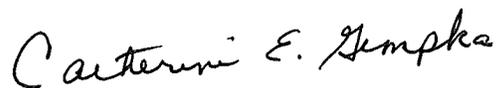
6 OPEN DISCUSSION – Chief Wydra noted that the Commission will be receiving a communication regarding Wilmont & Woodin. Ms. Curtis inquired as to when they would receive the information and Chief Wydra responded that as soon as he receives it from Mayor Jackson he will forward it on immediately.

7 ADJOURNMENT

At 7:32 p.m. Mr. Strickland motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The next meeting will be Wednesday June 11, 2014 in the Activity Room at the Miller Library Complex 6:00 p.m.

Recorded by,



Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk