

**HAMDEN BOARD OF TRAFFIC AUTHORITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2009**

**Attending:** Raeann Curtis, Reginald Higgins, Elliott Kerzner, Gerald Migliaro  
Meg Nowacki, Police Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello, Asst. Town  
Attorney Kamp

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chairman Kerzner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Curtis arriving at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Kerzner entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2009. Ms. Nowacki motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Higgins. *The vote was three in favor and one abstain, with Ms. Curtis not arriving in time for review and vote.*

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- a. Review of department activity – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that the work at Mt. Carmel Ave and West Woods Road continues. There is a problem with the bus stop and the jersey barriers may have to be moved to allow riders to get on and off the bus at that intersection. The bids went out for the Whitney Ave, signalization and the final bid accepted came in at 1.7 million, \$300 under the expected amount. The work will start in April 2010.
- b. Items of concern – The supplies for the Traffic Department were currently stored in the basement of the Old Town Hall now with the construction starting they have to be moved and they will be put in storage containers and then the containers moved to an easily accessibly location.
- c. Review of site plans – There will be a ground breaking on Thursday, October 15, 2009. There will be no changes for Dixwell and Whitney Ave. but a loading zone needs to be designated.
- d. Correspondence – Reviewed by Chairman Kerzner.

**PUBLIC/MEDIA COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**Mr. Michael Horn, 67 Ridge Road** addressed the Commission regarding the request for a 3 way stop sign. Mr. Horn noted a number of accidents in the area and feels that the 3 way stop sign would help reduce the number of accidents. He noted that there is an area of vacant property can be taken for this purpose.

**Mt. Elliott Brown, 73 Ridge Road** is in agreement with Mr. Horn and would like to seed the speeding on the road considerably reduced he noted that there are a number of bikers and walkers on the road and fears someone will be seriously hurt.

**Mrs. Marie Sims, 59 Ridge Road** feels the road needs desperate revamping for the reasons stated by Mr. Horn and Mr. Brown and feels that it would only be a matter of time before someone is killed or seriously injured and that something needs to be done in a hurry.

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**Mr. Brian Marazzi, YMCA Hamden/North Haven** - Mr. Marazzi addressed the Commission regarding the 5K Road Race on November 14, 2009 with a course encompassing 8 various streets in the area starting at the YMCA on Sherman Ave., this is a fundraiser for the YMCA to help raise money for less fortunate families in the area to help provide swimming, learning and other activities at the Y. The Road Race is also going to include a family fun walk. This is the first time for this type of event for the Y and the event would start at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Mr. Marazzi is looking for direction from the Commission as to what must be done to hold the event.

**Mrs. Azalea Mitch, 30 Ralston St.** – Mrs. Mitch addressed the Commission regarding speeding along Putnam Ave., Parking on Putnam Ave., and a Bicycle lane all outlined in the letter to the Commission along with diagrams. They are looking for better access to the Farmington Canal.

**Mr. Bob Patterson, 26 Augur St.** – Mr. Patterson feels that the Farmington Canal is becoming a commuter parking lot and that the residents of the area need a safe access to and from the Canal.

**Kathleen Schomaker, 22 Lilac Ave., Legislative Council Member** – Councilwoman Schomaker said that as a bicycle commuter I would like to echo the thoughts of her neighbors and as the 5<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Council Representative I would like to ask the Commission to take into account that the Council has allocated a capital line for a traffic study in the south end of town and she feel that anything that the Commission does with respect to bicycling would fit in very well with a broad scale traffic study and that these are some of the steps that are need to get stared on some 21 century so I would appreciate your consideration.

**Mr. Bill Mitch, 30 Ralston St.,** Mr. Mitch pointed out that riding on the sidewalk is illegal even though some people feel that bicyclist should do this. There are some stretches of Putnam Ave. where there is overgrown brush, poison ivy and the sidewalk is blocked and there are other areas with no sidewalks so this project would benefit the neighborhood. He stated a simple painting of the road advises drivers that they should not be in that lane and it would be a big safety measure. He feels the road is wide enough to handle it and it would make access to Putnam Ave. easier which is really the only way to get on the Canal at that point.

**Mr. Norman Benedict, 2795 Whitney Ave.,** - Mr. Benedict is asking for “No Parking” signs on Riverside Drive as this is a cut through for Quinnipiac University and nursing students from Whitney Manor have been parking and blocking his driveway. The parking blocks the travel lanes also and if an emergency vehicle had to get through it would not be able to. Mr. Benedict called the Police department and they came out and issued warnings then came back and issued tickets. There was some relief during the school break but he would like something done before the winter comes.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

- a. ***Riverside Drive, "No Parking" signs request*** – Mr. Benedict addressed the Commission seeing relief with the installation of "No Parking" signs which have been blocked by vehicles parked too close to the driveway entrance and across the street blocking vehicles backing out of the parking area. Chief Wydra stated the traffic technicians went to the area and recommends the installation of the signs 124 feet from Whitney Ave. on the north side of the street and 64 feet on the south side of the street. Ms. Nowacki inquired as to how many homes would be affected by the signs and two homes will be affected by this action but at the same time will protect the residents. Mr. Higgins inquired as to how quickly the signs could be installed and the Chief noted immediately since the ground is still soft. Ms. Nowacki motioned to install the signs on the recommendation of the Chief Wydra, seconded by Mr. Migliaro. ***There were four votes in favor and one abstain.***
- b. ***5K Road Race, Hamden/North Haven YMCA 10/17/09*** – Mr. Marazzi addressed the earlier and at this time the Commission asked if he had maps indicating the race route and at this time he did not bring any with him, he did state that he has it written down but needs direction from the Commission as to how to proceed in order to have the race. The walk will start at 9:00 a.m. and the race at 9:30 a. m. rain or shine. Ms. Nowacki noted that the race is November 14, 2009 and not October 17, 2009 as indicated on the agenda. Mr. Marazzi stated they were expecting 75-100 runners he didn't know if police were needed. Ms. Nowacki noted that Four Rod Road is a blind hill and that part of the route may need to be changed and have the runners turn right onto Paradise instead of Ear Ave. Mile markers, staffer and volunteers will be present. Mr. Marazzi noted there will be no spectators. Police presence will be needed. Mr. Marazzi will provide a map and all other details of this to Chief Wydra as soon as possible and will meet with the Chief to go over all the plans for the Race. Mr. Marazzi noted that if it was not able to take place in November that it would be okay they could hold it in the Spring but they were hoping to get the funds in their current budget report. Mr. Higgins motioned to table this item for the November 12, 2009 meeting with the Chief providing a report on this race whether it will take place or not if all requirements are met by Mr. Marazzi. Ms. Nowacki noted this date is 3 days before the race and Ms. Curtis asked if there would be advertising of the event. Mr. Marazzi stated there would be no advertising due to the short amount of time, seconded by Mr. Migliaro. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

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**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. ***Putnam Ave, Augur St., Bicycle & Parking lane project*** – Ms. Schomaker Legislative Council Representative advised the Commission that the Council has added funds to the Capital budget for a traffic study for the south end of town but she isn't sure if this would be completed in house or if an outside consultant would be hired. This study will include one way streets, stop signs, traffic calming and access to and from the Farmington Canal Greenway. *(At this time a gentlemen got up and was let to speak but he did not identify himself and the clerk was not sure what he was addressing since he stated the two were not connected. What two was he talking about? Since he did not speak to this at the Public Session there is nothing to add to this.)* Chief Wydra was asked if he had any comments on this and he stated that he felt it was high time that Hamden and the rest of the state get in tune with what other areas are doing. The document provided presents a great idea. Chief Wydra noted that this would more than likely be completed by an outside source since the town does not have a Traffic Engineer but he also noted that there are residents of the area that may be qualified to do this study for nothing or a nominal fee. Mr. Brazza of the Traffic department stated that this is something that could be done and he agrees that an outside consultant would be best to do it. The recommendation of the Chief is to take action on it. Ms. Curtis stated that the Department of Transportation's planning division is looking at bicycle lanes and there is a possibility that there may be funds to help the town with this project. Ms. Nowacki, "money or maybe just consultants?" Ms. Curtis, "no I think that there is a possibility their people can do it, she isn't sure just what's available but they are working on it." Ms. Nowacki feels the Commission should allow the Chief to proceed to find funds or a free consultant. The Chief noted that the mechanics of how it will be paid for will fall into the lap of the administration. Chairman Kerzner entertained a motion to give the Chief authority to progress on the proposal by Whitneyville Civic Association for the 3 items in the proposal, parking, bicycle lane and traffic on Putnam Ave. and Augur St. with a report for the November 12, 2009 meeting. Ms. Nowacki motioned for this and seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

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- b. **Ridge and Park Roads 3 way stop signs** – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that certain considerations, criteria and guidelines are reviewed when considering stop signs. He noted that there was only one accident at the said intersection in 1 year, with another incident involving a parked car. The records indicate that only one other accident happened at that intersection. The manual suggests 5 or more reported accidents in a 12 month period for consideration for multi stop signs. Based on the statistics the Chief does not recommend the 3 way stop signs requested. Chief Wydra pointed out that Ridge Road in that area is a curve and stated that a curve can cause problems but people don't expect a stop sign and this could create more accidents. (*At this time a member of the public got up to address this item of which he had the opportunity under the Public/Media comments but he evidently wasn't clear the first time he spoke and he did not identify himself, therefore there is nothing to add to this.*) The question of other accidents happening in the area was addressed and Chief Wydra made it clear that the other accidents were not at the intersection. Chief Wydra brought up curve ahead signs and chevrons to possibly help the situation. Ms. Nowacki inquired of the Chief to see if the curve ahead and chevrons would work and the Chief agreed. (*At this time another member of the public got up and spoke, not identifying himself, therefore there is nothing to add to this.*) Chairman Kerzner stated that maybe some road narrowing techniques could be used to help slow down the traffic. (*At this point 4 or 5 people were speaking at the same time with no distinguishable clarity of what was being addressed, the road, parking, speeding etc.*) Chairman Kerzner spoke to a motion to take the Chief's recommendation for traffic abatement, curve ahead signs, chevrons, slow speed or feasible road narrowing to slow down the speed. Mr. Migliaro motioned to accept the motion put forth by Chairman Kerzner, seconded by Ms. Nowacki. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- c. **Meeting Dates schedule review and approval** – Chairman Kerzner requested that the date of Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 be changed to Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 due to a religious holiday. The clerk mistakenly gave the Chairman a hard time since she thought the holiday was over on the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Ms. Nowacki motioned to accept the Meeting Schedule with the correction after verification by Chairman Kerzner, seconded by Ms. Curtis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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**OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS** Ms. Nowacki would like to submit to the Chief for consideration of easing traffic at Earl and Four Rod intersection for the 5K Road Race mainly because of brush in the area hindering the sight from people either going south or north on Earl in order to come out into Four Rod Road they need to sometimes come out a little more than is safe because as she mentioned earlier as many people may know coming down the hill of Four Rod Road people do not come down slowly.

The second item Ms. Nowacki would like to inquire about is from the minutes of September 9, 2009 under Open Discussion *“It appears that the planted flowers at Ridge Road and Haverford are too high and blocking the site line. This is a zoning issue as the planting is too close to the road easterly toward Ridge Road. The Chief will check into this”* Ms. Nowacki asked what the Chief found when he checked into this situation, what happened when he checked into it. Chief Wydra advised the Commission he did not check into it and he apologized for the oversight. He will go view the site.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:10 p.m. Ms. Nowacki motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Higgins. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

***The next regular meeting will be Thursday, November 12, 2009, in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex 7:00 p.m.***

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka  
Commission Clerk