

**MINUTES  
MONTHLY MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk  
December 9, 2009**

**Rowayton Community Center  
8:00 p.m.**

The December meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commission was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis. Mrs. Langalis welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner John Igneri and seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting as submitted. The motion passed and the minutes of said meeting were approved as submitted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Barbis addressed the first item on the agenda, "Deer at Bayley Beach", saying that for about the last six months, there have been 9 deer roaming on Bayley Beach, Roton Point and Wee Burn. The Commissioners and the District Administrator have been discussing what might be done about this problem with the managers of Roton Point and of WeeBurn Beach Club. Mr. Barbis made a motion to further look into the options available to address this problem. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Igneri and was passed.

Mr. Robert Pettus was present to speak to a proposal that he had forwarded to the Commissioners to address the possibility of new signs for the entrances to Rowayton. The present sign states "Welcome to Rowayton" and a sailboat is pictured on the sign. Mr. Pettus proposed to have the present sign include a line "Birthplace of the Business Computer" under the "Welcome to Rowayton". Mr. Pettus has researched the implementation of such a sign. He states that the cost of two signs made by Norwalk Sign Co. would be \$500. Ms. Langalis asked for comments about the proposal

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presented by Mr. Pettus. Mr. Barbis commented that he, for one, thinks that Rowayton is well known for many things and, perhaps, mentioning only this one was not advisable. He mentioned that he had "floated" the idea to numerous residents with a similar response. Phyllis Padro, who was present for an unrelated question from the Rowayton Gardeners, stated that she thinks the signs are fine as they are. (The Gardeners maintain a small garden under the sign at White Bridge). Mr. Carlson commented that he thought that there were two sets of signs made at the time that the original "Welcome to Rowayton" signs were produced and that there might still be two intact, unused signs available. Mr. Pettus noted that he wasn't aware of such a possibility and wouldn't advocate spending money for signs that were already available, just to add a line to them. He noted that the largest cost involved in producing the signs was in the painting of them. It was noted that Rowayton is known for many things, but that the invention of the first business computer changed the world. In response to a question asking for clarification on the details of the "Univac" invention, Cynthia Johnson (Rowayton Librarian) noted that computers were primarily used in military weapons applications before the invention of the Univac. This was a very secret project to invent this computer. There were 180 people working in what is now the Community Center which was known as the "laboratory" for this computer, the Remington Rand 409. The computer developed was used in the election prior to the one electing Eisenhower. The creation of the computer changed the way business was done. (Mr. Carlson returned that he had been mistaken and that there were not any replacement signs unused and stored). Commission Chair Langalis noted that if we were to take on this project, funds would need to be found where they are not currently available. She noted that the Commissioners would consider Mr. Pettus' proposal and would get back to him.

On another topic, Mr. Pettus noted that he had previously sent a letter to each of the Commissioners pointing out that the people who had previously worked on the beach permitting process were ignored when the process was changed to an "in house" operation. He said that the slight, intended or not, had left a bad taste in people's mouths. (It was pointed out that the Clerk had sent a letter in response to Mr. Pettus' letter. Mr. Pettus stated that he had not received the letter. The Clerk will mail a copy of the letter to Mr. Pettus). Ms. Langalis pointed out that, although greatly appreciated, the processors of the beach applications had been compensated. She noted that the computer age which we are anxious to associate with Rowayton has brought in changes in the bureaucratic processes of a lot of projects. Mr. Pettus noted that the compensation for the work done was only in effect for a very few years recently. Mrs. Langalis assured Mr. Pettus that the Commissioners would see that the "Beach Permit Processors" would be appropriately thanked for their past involvement.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Concerning the proposed dog fence that was authorized at the November meeting, Mr. Barbis noted that he had toured the park with Rob Frazier, member of the Long Range Planning Committee for the Community Center. They acknowledge that the denizens

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of the dog park want to see a fence and have contributed \$2K to see that it becomes a reality. Mr. Barbis spoke to the plan that he and Mr. Frazier had come up with and said that the dog park perimeter would be squared off and there would be a split rail fence installed that would mark the boundary of the dog park. A wire mesh fence would be installed inside the split rail to prevent the "escape" of any dogs. This fence would also leave the paddle courts, the greenhouse, etc. outside of the dog park and would allow greater accessibility for Mr. Carlson and other District workers. It remains to be seen if a two gate entry would be provided at both entrances to the Dog Park. Mr. Barbis committed to e-mailing the plan to Gail Jaques, representative of the dog park patrons. Mr. Carlson thinks that the fence can yet be installed this year if the weather cooperates. Stakes will be set up to demarcate the area of the proposed dog park area. Mr. Carlson will also research the materials needed to effect the change and will communicate the costs to the appropriate parties. This new plan will obviate the need for the deer fence previously agreed to at the November meeting.

Phyllis Padro, President of the Rowayton Gardeners, was present to ask the intention of the Commission as to the area where there are currently two piles of wood chips. The Gardeners propose to extend the garden they have created along the south side of the Community Center property adjacent the dog park. This garden now extends from the corner of the drive as it rounds the southeast corner of the Community Center on the south boundary of the Community Center with the dog park and continues almost to Highland. The two large piles of wood chips now are positioned on an area that the Gardeners would like to use to expand their south garden. Ms. Padro asked if the Commissioners intended to plant any trees there and was assured that they do not. The Gardeners would like to continue with the landscaping plan already in place and would perhaps add viburnum, a lilac and a dogwood. They hoped that there would not be any other large trees planted there. The Commission has no intention of planting such a tree in this space.

Ms. Padro also noted that the contractors installing the sewer lines along Highland Avenue towards Wilson Avenue have agreed to relocate and "dig in" some large rocks at the McKinley traffic triangle. This space has long been thought to be maintained by the Gardeners. It has not been, as it is State property. However, with the placement of these rocks, the Gardeners hope to minimize the damage by speeding trucks and to maintain a more attractive environment at that triangle.

### **OFFICER JENSEN'S REPORT**

Joe Jensen mentioned that he had spoken with Mayor Dick Moccia and let him know that Officer Jensen would be attending the "Light Up Rowayton" event on December 6. Mr. Moccia indicated that he had not been invited. The representative from the RCA who was present noted this and assured the Commission that the Mayor would be invited in the future.

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Mr. Jensen noted that the fence adjacent the basketball court at Bayley Beach and common to the Roton Point Club line was further flattened over the Thanksgiving break. Jack Robson noted that the fence company that will install a new fence there has been contacted to do the job. They just haven't gotten to it as yet. He assured the Commission that the fence will be replaced/repared before the end of this month. The proposed fence will be 8' tall and will match the one that is there now. It will cover the entire width of the basketball court.

### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Mike Barbis has been in touch with the attorney representing the Sixth Taxing District's insurance carrier over the lawsuit at Pinkney Park. The injured party is suing the Sixth Taxing District and not Shakespeare on the Sound even though this incurred during an SOS event. SOS has its own insurance and the Sixth Taxing District is named as an "additional insured". SOS has cited that the claim is minor but, based on the nature of the filing, the attorney suggested otherwise. The attorney representing the Sixth Taxing District will make sure SOS's insurance carrier is drawn into this and that the Sixth Taxing District is strongly defended. Commissioner Barbis and former Commissioner Kweskin need to sign and notarize a statement for this attorney.

John Igneri announced that he had met with Corporation Counsel for the Fire Department. They are proposing that the Norwalk Fire Department be designated as the maintenance/repair agent for the Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department which, currently, does not have a contract with a mechanic or company to service the RVFD vehicles. Hopefully, this will eventually save the RVFD valuable time and money in the servicing of their vehicles. They are currently determining the insurance ramifications with such an agreement. We would need to slightly increase our insurance coverage, perhaps, in order to indemnify the NFD for the work that they would do. There also may be overtime and workmen's compensation issues that need to be ironed out.

On the subject of the approved purchase of a new fire truck, Mr. Conroy noted that the order needs to be placed before the end of the calendar year in order to not incur extra costs necessitated by new regulations that will go into effect in 2010. Mr. Conroy and Ms. Langalis will attend to placing this order, using the personnel from the RVFD as their "experts".

Mr. Pettus asked about the plan for the Bradford pear trees that line Highland Avenue. The Commissioners noted that their plan was to take them out, but that they are really the province of the state and/or the city. For right now, we are going to wait until the spring, and, if the State/City won't remove them, the Sixth Taxing District will address the issue. But this is a temporary fix. Everyone acknowledges that they were a bad choice in the first place and that they will eventually be replaced with a more appropriate choice of tree.

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Mr. Barbis noted also that the perimeter fence, particularly along Highland Avenue, looks pretty shabby. The Commission is going to try to repair it for now as a complete replacement of the fence is not in the budget.

Ms. Langalis noted that she had received a call from a resident concerning the state of disrepair at the Community Dock. The RCA, represented this evening by Ted Hildner, expressed the monitoring of the RCA of this matter. The issue revolves around the seeming lack of a landscaping plan which seems to not have been submitted to the city. In the absence of such a plan, the plan presented by Wendell Anderson will be implemented, or Mr. Glazer will not obtain a CO. There will be additional plantings before the season is over. A marine contractor is going to be bringing a barge up the river and will assist in the placing of pilings in the spring. The whole issue is acknowledged to be pretty contentious.

### DISTRICT CLERK

1. It's again been a very quiet month as far as special requests. There are now 11 people on the "active" wait list for RR parking permits.
2. I neglected to mention last month that several letters had gone out to various persons or groups at the request of the Commissioners. They are to:
  - Mr. Peter M. Nolin**, Sandak, Hennessey and Greco enclosing the notice that the designs implemented by 140 Rowayton Avenue Associates comport with the Agreement between the Sixth Taxing District and 140 Rowayton Avenue Associates, LLC, dated March 10, 2004.
  - Mr. Frank Zullo**, Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy, PC, thanking Mr. Zullo for his work and advice on behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> Taxing District over the past years that he has acted as Counsel for the District.
  - Mr. Ted O'Neill** thanking him for wrapping the cannon in anticipation of the Halloween holiday which discouraged vandalism.
  - Mr. Robert Pettus** outlining some policies regarding the issuance of beach permits.
3. A fruit basket was sent to Jack Robson as a get well wish after his recent rotator cuff surgery. Another fruit basket will be delivered to Edwina Casey, the Assistant to the Treasurer, in recognition of her recent bereavement on the death of her mother.
4. I have ordered new letterhead to reflect Mr. Igneri's new status as a Commissioner and removing Mr. Kweskin's name from the letterhead.

### PROPERTY MANAGER - Ed Carlson - December 2009

#### Community Center:

1. I met with Rob Frazier to discuss location for fence extension for the dog park.

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Am waiting to hear final approval

2. The electrical outlet in the courtyard was replaced because of a short and arcing.
3. The leaf cleanup at all properties is complete.
4. I have met with two propane equipment installers and am awaiting estimates to replace boilers.

(Several outlets in the Moose Room were affected by the tripping of the circuit breaker. Light was shed on what panels the different areas work off. The approved new running boards have been installed on the new rack truck. Mr. Carlson is receiving estimates to convert the three boilers at the CC to propane. This would eliminate the hot water heaters. As background, Mr. Barbis noted that we have a buried oil tank. It has been suggested that we would spend \$4K to upgrade the system or convert to propane. We won't be doing either anytime soon. The activity now is just in the way of information gathering).

**Bayley Beach:**

1. A load of chips from the CC maples was dumped by the tennis courts planting area and will be spread.

**Pinkney Park:**

1. A large branch from the tree in the rear yard (one of the silver maples) came down in the wind and fell close to the gazebo. There was no damage to the structure.
2. A shutter also fell in the same storm and can be repaired.

**FIRE MARSHAL - Ed Carlson - Report for November 2009**

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	2	3
Clerical (office) work		18
Fire Marshal Conferences	***	***
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigation(s)	***	***
Meetings: Construction	1	1
District Monthly	1	2
(Other)		
Oil Tank removal inspection	1	1
(Other)		
		<hr/> Total Man Hrs. 28

**Expenses:**

Remarks to the Commissioners: Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

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(Mr. Carlson repeated some of the same information covered by Commissioner Igeneri regarding the meeting with Corporation Counsel for the RVFD. Mr. Carlson said that the mechanics at the Norwalk FD will do our repairs and maintenance on the RVFD vehicles for no labor charge. This, of course, has to pass the Common Council. Their original plan was to provide maintenance for several surrounding municipalities' fire departments. That hasn't worked out as planned, however. The legal department for the Norwalk Fire Department will draft an agreement for the maintenance of our vehicles).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR - Jack Robson

#### **Community Center Trees on Highland Avenue & McKinley**

Brown & Company have been working on removing dead, decaying and damaged trees since last Thursday. Most of the work has been completed. The stumps will be cut back as close to the ground as possible. They will complete this work by the end of the week. All the remaining wood chips will be removed from the lawn surface.

There are three trees left to be worked on. These were not in the latest plan. Brown & Co. suggest trimming these instead of cutting them down. We have spent **\$7,500.00** so far from our budget of \$10,000.00. It will cost us a day rate of **\$1,500.00** to trim all the remaining three trees, plus put a cable in one for **\$150.00**. That will leave **\$850.00** for either stump grinding during this winter or for emergencies. Brown & Company would do this additional work after the ground freezes.

(Ms. Padro noted that Norway maples can be cut back quite severely. **Mike Barbis noted that the Commissioners agree to pay for what Jack has noted in his report. The \$10,000.00 has already been appropriated for the tree work for this fall. The \$7,500.00 already spent for tree removal will be added to the day rate of \$1,500.00 for trimming the remaining trees and includes \$150.00 for putting a stabilizing cable in one of them. This will leave \$850.00 for either stump grinding or other needs).**

A lot of wood has been removed from the property. Cars and trucks have left some serious depressions in the lawn. Signs have been posted to keep this from happening again. We will need to repair the lawn in the spring.

The tire indentations were from individuals anxious to retrieve free wood as quickly as possible, without concern for our property.

Brown & Company, however, put down plywood to protect the lawn. They were in no way responsible for this damage.

All wood chips have been stock piled. Large sections of trunks have been left. They could be split into more usable pieces during the winter months. Grinding of the stumps would be best done during January or February.

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#### **Community Center Panic Bars**

The panic bars for the "Moose Room" will be installed in a few weeks. (Mr. Robson noted that the panic bars won't be in for a few weeks. A question of the Board Room door was broached. It was asked whether we could get a good deal on a second door. Mr. Conroy agreed and it was authorized to spent up to \$1500 to get a new locking system/panic bar assembly installed on the Board Room door).

#### **Community Center Drains**

The drains were inspected by Carl Heise. Mr. Heise determined that the gutters, at the time of inspection, were clogged. He indicated that the down spouts seemed to be clear. The drain pipes seemed to be clogged and needed cleaning. Mr. Heise could not determine where the drains ran off to. Ed Carlson had offered to do the cleaning of the gutters and down spouts. The drains may need to be cleaned by an outside source. American Rooter, located in Watertown, CT submitted an estimate last January. Cost to vacuum out or clean manually was **\$6,950.00**. (Mr. Robson noted that he had been in contact with American Rooter and that the prior estimate is still the same. Mr. Barbis noted that we might want to call our friends at McVac and asked if this cost was part of the original Community Center project. Mr. Conroy indicated that we have already budgeted for it. A couple of other estimates will be sought).

#### **Bayley Beach**

Repair on the concrete walk has been put on hold until early next spring. The stone mason was reluctant to start now, due to possible frost while work was in progress.

Repair work on the tables and benches will be done over the remaining months and be ready for the spring opening.

Silvestri Fencing will call in a few weeks to schedule the installation of an 8 ft. fence behind the basketball court. Estimate cost **\$1,400.00**. Half is to be paid by Roton Point Club. Our fee would be **\$700.00**.

Plans regarding the parking lot layout are still being worked on.

#### **RR Parking Lot**

Signs for DAILY PARKING ONLY are finished and will be installed by Ed Carlson. (Mr. Carlson noted that they were delivered to the RR station this afternoon). A sandwich board sign requesting daily parkers to STOP and pay before parking is done, was ordered. Ed Carlson will pick up and deliver to the west side guard shack. (This has been done).

The west side guard shack has a new window installed. This will give the guards a better view of who is entering the parking lot and when.

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#### **Ambler Park**

A new sign measuring 12" x 18" and mounted on a 4" x 4" post will be installed this week at the entrance to Ambler Park.

#### **Pinkney Park**

So far the pinwheels that were installed last month seem to be keeping the geese from the seawall and the rest of the property. I haven't seen the geese since. The stone wall on Rowayton Avenue may need a repair in the spring. (There may also need to be a small repair on the park side of the wall.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

(Mr. Conroy passed out the November Treasurer's Report to the Commission). Mr. Conroy noted that the RR parking attendants have received their usual bonuses based on hours worked. A lot of the scheduling of the shifts is up to the guards and they have taken care of this.

Mr. Conroy also noted that we are in a sort of low point regarding available revenues. We couldn't withstand any big expense right now until we receive a new infusion of cash from the City in the form of our share of the tax revenues. We need a little bit more of a cushion than we enjoy at the present time.

The Treasurer indicated that he has received electronic requests for grant money from the RCA, the Rowayton Library and the Rowayton Historical Society. There will be more to come in.

The auditors will report to the Commissioners at 7:30 p.m. on January 13, just prior to the monthly Commissioners' meeting.

Mr. Conroy asked the Commissioners to assemble any insurance changes in premiums, proposed new contracts, etc. before the first budget meeting. Mr. Conroy noted that we need to get the fundamental pieces together before we have the first joint budget meeting. He noted that we don't have many ways of making money. Taxes and fees are the extent of our revenue sources.

John Igneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mike Barbis. Commission Chair Tammy Langalis adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Woodworth  
Clerk, 6<sup>th</sup> Taxing District