

DRAFT

**MINUTES  
MONTHLY MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk  
APRIL 8, 2009**

**Rowayton Community Center  
33 Highland Avenue  
8:00 p.m.**

ATTENDEES: Commissioners Ed Kweskin, Mike Barbis, and Tammy Langalis, Treasurer Andy Conroy, District Administrator Jack Robson, Property Manager and Fire Marshal Ed Carlson and District Clerk Andrea Woodworth.

Commissioner Ed Kweskin called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Kweskin welcomed members of the public attending the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting as submitted was made by Tammy Langalis, seconded by Mike Barbis, and approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda is a proposal to amend the Rules and Regulations for Bayley Beach Park and have them adopted by the Commissioners. Mike Barbis explained how much time and effort had gone into the writing of the new rules which were, for the most part, just simplified and updated. Some of the prior rules were antiquated and many were unenforceable. Last summer we had many requests to use the pavilion which had to be denied because of the way the rules read. Tammy and Mike met with Sue Bucciarelli and her daughter Melissa who man the gate at Bayley Beach most of the time, Ed Carlson and Andrea Woodworth. Don Wilson was also consulted re: his concerns for the beach. There are copies of the new rules available for everyone to review. Tammy Langalis made a motion to adopt the new rules. The motion was seconded by Mike Barbis. Discussion followed. John Cagnina asked a question regarding guests of residents. It was explained that guests need to be accompanied by the residents. The proposed rules took out any reference to "guest" as we no longer issue "Guest Passes" and the rules have always required that residents accompany their guests. Guests should accompany the resident if they want to avoid the parking fee. There is no rule that would prohibit issuance of guest passes in the future if the Commissioners at that time decide to reinstitute the policy.

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Another question was asked about residents bringing grills. Mike explained that there would be a designated, fenced area adjacent the fence between Bayley and Weeburn and all grilling would be required to be done there. Mr. Carlson assured the residents that there will be, as in the past, a receptacle for disposal of hot coals and ashes. Mike went on to explain that all the District grills will be removed from their current location and relocated to the designated, fenced 40' x 20' area.

Cynthia Johnson wanted to know if children 12 and over could be on their own, by these rules. Mr. Kweskin said that we weren't requiring any special supervision, such as by sight or sound, for that age child. We're only saying that Children under 12 must be accompanied.

Frank Fay asked if grilling in the grove would be disallowed. The answer was yes, it is not allowed.

After the discussion, the Commissioners voted to adopt the amended "Rules and Regulations for Bayley Beach Park". It was announced that there would be a public hearing on April 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center at which time the public will be given an opportunity to vote on these rules. If a majority of those present is in favor of the rules, they will be formally adopted.

### **Communications and Report of the District Clerk - Andrea Woodworth**

1. The Library is raffling off a car as a fund raiser. The winner will be announced on May 25 at Bayley Beach. They are requesting permission to put a sign at the entrance to the Community Center, similar to the "thermometer" annual campaign sign. The sign would be no larger than 12 square feet and would go up on May 3 after the Gardeners' Plant Sale sign comes down. The Library is also requesting permission to park the car for the raffle where the Library always has their information table in Pinkney Park on Memorial Day Sunday, the day of the parade. **(APPROVED)**

2. The RCA has reserved May 9 for their Comedy Night fundraiser traditionally held under a tent at the Community Center. Does this meet with the Commissioners' approval? **(YES)**

3. Per Tammy's request at the last meeting, I contacted Ms.. Laura Panciera, the Waste Programs Manager and asked about initiating recycling pick up at Harbor Bluff. She indicated that the recycling would have to be done at curbside since Harbor Bluff Lane is not a recognized city street. I sent a letter to Mr. Charles Schoendorf and then spoke with him about the information. He said that he would look into it as well. I called him this week to see if he had made any progress. He said that Ms. Panciera had agreed to

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provide blue box pickup at each house in Harbor Bluff. Now, it's a matter of reminding City Carting until it becomes a habit for them.

4. I received a request from a Norwalk resident who teaches ballroom dancing through the Adult Ed. program at Brien McMahon High School. She is looking for a place to hold similar programs on her own on evenings of 8 consecutive weeks. We never have the same time each week available and she is not able, of course, to pay the "per event" fee. I told her I would bring it up. We could probably find at least one night a week for her, but I wouldn't know what to charge. **(NOT APPROVED)**

5. The RCA is requesting use of Pinkney Park for the River Ramble on July 11, 2009. **(APPROVED)**

6. A question has come up about serving alcohol at the Community Center. On the application for use of the Community Center there is a space where the renter would indicate if they would be serving alcohol. Included in the Rules is a specification that alcohol not be served by or to persons under 21. Need I get permission of the Commissioners for each party that indicates alcohol will be served? Or may I use my discretion when confirming the rental? **(The Commissioners approved of the Clerk using her discretion regarding granting permission for alcohol to be served at events scheduled through her).**

### **REPORTS - Commissioners**

Commissioner Mike Barbis announced that he had been contacted by the Rowayton Arts Center regarding having some sort of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at Pinkney Park. Mike gave a verbal approval for the yet to be scheduled celebration.

Mike also noted that long-time Rowayton resident and dentist Shelley Trubowitz had passed away. His family wants to do something at Bayley Beach as a memorial and to recognize his love for the beach and for tennis. They are trying to work out some details. If nothing specific is indicated, the funds collected may eventually come to the District.

Mr. Barbis has been in touch with someone who would like to plant a vegetable garden at the Community Center. She would like to use it to teach children about growing your own food and, possibly, later teaching them to cook some of what they have grown. We might want to create a space near the green house for such a garden and fence it off from the dog park. It would take moving a lot of things out of the sheds there.

In an attempt to come up with some new ideas regarding fund raising, the RCA plans to have a House Tour this fall. Since this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of Bell Island as an association, they would like to have the tour of houses on Bell Island. They are asking the Commissioners' permission, but Mr. Barbis indicated they didn't

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really need it. At any rate, the Commissioners are in favor of this.

The recently built bathrooms at the tennis courts at Bayley Beach were used before they were officially opened.

There is an ongoing investigation of the flood gate at the ditch from Bayley Beach into Farm Creek. It is broken. We are looking into fixing it, if possible. If not possible, a new one will have to be installed.

There was recently a fire on Burchard Lane. Norwalk Fire Department arrived there before Rowayton Fire Department. There are some dispatching issues we have to coordinate with Norwalk Fire Department.

**Fire Marshal - Ed Carlson - March 2009**

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	3	4
Clerical (office) work		22
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	1
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigation(s) House Fire	1	7
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2
(Other)		
(Other)		
(Other)		
		<u>Total Man Hrs. 39</u>

Expenses:

Remarks to the Commissioners: On 3/26: House fire on Burchard Lane. Assisted by NFD. A Mutual Aid agreement has been drafted to address daytime response to Structure Fires.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Carlson

Mr. Carlson expanded on Mr. Barbis' remarks about the house fire on Burchard and the Norwalk FD being dispatched before the Rowayton FD. There have been some issues with proper dispatching. Mr. Carlson reported that he had met with the Norwalk FD Chief and the Deputy Chief. The Chief suggested that the 6<sup>th</sup> Taxing District Commissioners draft a letter to the head dispatcher, Andy Gayle, stating some of our

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problems with dispatching into Rowayton of the NFD before RFD gets the call. Ed would like to be notified before the NFD is dispatched. In this case NFD got to the scene before the RFD. The fire occurred at 4:30 a.m. It was a kitchen fire and there were no working smoke detectors in the house. The resident of the home was awakened by her dog. Mr. Kweskin asked how much earlier Rowayton should be notified before Norwalk is dispatched. Mr. Carlson responded that it is proper procedure to dispatch Rowayton and then Rowayton would ask for aid, if needed. Mr. Kweskin asked if the residents wouldn't want as many people called as possible. Mr. Barbis explained that the problem is that proper protocol was not followed. In this case, there could have been an accident of fire vehicles running into each other as they are arriving from two different directions. Mr. Carlson explained that as of now they have no way of communicating by pagers with the Norwalk FD. They have not wanted to commit to new pagers until they know what Norwalk will be buying, since they want to be sure that the Rowayton pagers will be compatible with the Norwalk ones. A resident attending the meeting said that he would want whoever could get there first to be dispatched. Mr. Carlson mentioned that if there is confusion about who is the first responder, one or the other might not try to be in such a hurry. The Commissioners instructed the Clerk to work with Fire Marshal Carlson in drafting a letter which will then be circulated to the Commissioners for their approval.

### **Property Manager- Ed Carlson - April 2009**

#### **Community Center:**

1. All fire extinguishers have been inspected and maintained for the year.
2. Rowayton Electric rewired a light in the Underground to save electricity.
3. I would like to get an estimate to extend the dog field fence to eliminate the barrier currently across the access to the greenhouse. I will discuss this with Gayle Jaques.
4. I have been in contact with truck dealers to provide an estimate to replace the District rack truck.

#### **Bayley Beach**

1. The sand cleanings have been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>.
2. The fire suppression system has been inspected for the season.

#### **Pinkney Park:**

1. The toilet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was replaced by RCM Plumbing. A valve also was replaced.

#### **Wilson Ave. Lot:**

1. The lot is being cleaned on a weekly basis. The dead pine tree was cut down and the leaves removed.

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Mr. Carlson also spoke about the "Plant a Row" group and the concern about dogs coming into the area. He thinks it would be a good idea to eliminate the gate and add a section of fence to fence the area off for the garden and leave the black top open to the green house and other buildings. He will get an estimate of what it would cost to open up that area. Running a fence from the gate to the corner of the green house would keep the dogs out of any potential garden.

Ed Carlson also mentioned that he had talked with a mechanic yesterday regarding the District rack truck. A repair of this truck would probably cost an additional \$1800 from what they had first thought. His recommendation would be not to repair it if the Commissioners thought that it might be replaced in a few months. A truck dealer with whom Ed has been speaking will call at the end of the week with a possible quote.

Ed also announced that the beach would be cleaned on May 14 and on July 29.

### **Commissioner's Report - Tammy Langalis**

Tammy reported that she had heard from Joe Gallo and that he is interested in running the concession at Bayley Beach again this year. He will look into the possibility of selling coffee in the mornings. He will also paint the interior of the concession stand if we provide the paint. The Commissioners are in agreement that we will provide the paint.

### **District Administrator - Jack Robson**

#### **Community Center Lights:**

We have four Rockford lights still in storage at the Community Center. It has been proposed that we make use of them by installing at least two lights around the driveway of the Community Center.

One suggested location is at the end of the driveway entrance where it forms a "T". The first light would go in the garden area on the upper level to the left of the large pine tree, before you go down to the lower level. We would then remove the two lights that are mounted on white posts, within the garden.

The second light location would be installed next to the large pine tree facing the dog park. This light would be installed on the grass strip between the driveway and the fence.

Total cost for installing these two lights would be in range of: **\$6,000.00+**. I am waiting for a confirmation from Mars Electric. They have two pre-poured concrete cylinders than can receive the mounting of the two lamps. They were trying to get back to me today with costs to execute the entire job, rather than my breaking it up between two contractors.

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A. J. Penna quoted a figure of \$4,000.00 for sona tube installation and excavating. Mars Electric will install the lights on the concrete pedestal and connect power to the lights. If they can handle the entire job, it might prove less expensive for us.  
(see drawing attached to the end of minutes)

Ed Kweskin asked when this should be done. Mr. Robson answered that he thinks it should be done as soon as possible. Ed asked Andy if we have the funds to do this. We discussed it but never put it in the budget. Mr. Conroy thinks we could do \$3500 or so but not \$6K or \$7K. Jack said that if we are prioritizing, that the front light is the most important. The Commissioners and Jack and Andy will communicate by e-mail on this subject. Tammy said that if they are the same as the two in the lower parking lots, we own the lights, but we just don't have the money to install them. Mr. Conroy said that we are going to talk about a variety of capital projects later. If we defund some projects that never were done, we might be able to come up with the money.

### **Bayley Beach Grill Installation:**

The removal and relocating of the existing grills has been recommended. A plan to re-install 8 of the old grills and posts was proposed at a meeting on site at Bayley Beach last Thursday afternoon. It was suggested that the grills be installed in two rows of four each. The grills would be contained within a lattice fence measuring approximately 38ft x 18ft. The height of the enclosure would be approximately 4 ft. The post construction would be out of pressure treated 4"x 4" wood. The lattice would be from 4' x 8' sections. A 1" x 6" plate would form the top railing. The location would be parallel with the Wee Burn chain link fence and just far enough away to avoid the grade from the fence and trees inside the fence.

Estimate for this type of installation: **\$7,500.00.**

**A second estimate was presented from Gas Company.**

### **VERSION "A"**

The material proposed for the construction of the main upright posts would be 4" SCH 40 white PVC pipe. These posts would be filled with concrete for added stability. These posts would be set in concrete below the sand level. The horizontal framing would be constructed from 2" SCH 40 white PVC pipe. The barrier/fencing would be made out of blue mesh as used on tennis courts for privacy. This material would be connected to the PVC pipe by nylon line connecting this line through grommets in the mesh and looping it over the PVC.

Estimate cost: **\$9,600.00**

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#### **VERSION "B"**

Construction method is the same as above, except for the material used for the barrier. The proposal suggests the use of a plastic lattice that would be diagonal in look.

Estimated cost: **\$10,100.00.**

I feel that VERSION "A" would be a more practical and attractive solution. The PVC would be maintenance free. The Tennis Type Screening is meant to remain up year round. No painting or staining needed.

If this is to be ready for the start of the beach season, we need to begin now. Can we figure out a way to get the funds to do it? Andy said that we can only fund it if we deauthorize something else. We put nothing extra in this budget. We only had \$5K in the budget for this. That's the bottom line. Mike asked if we might take some \$ from a project that's not very far along. We need to table this now, but need to make a decision tonight.

#### **The Seagate Problem**

Frank Schlater has offered his services in watching over and seeing that this problem gets resolved. I called Hal Alvord who sent his foreman over to evaluate the condition of the "Seagate" which controls the water flow from Farm Creek, into and out of, the ditch at Bayley Beach.

It has been determined that the "Seagate" was ajar, and if it could not be fixed, DPW would replace the "Seagate". We are presently waiting for a reply from DPW on which direction they will take.

#### **Damaged cover over electric box at 37 Wilson Avenue/Pole #2032**

Ed Carlson called to tell me about this problem. I called Hal Alvord at DPW and as of today, it has been taken care of with a new replacement.

#### **Garbage Containers: Farm Creek & Ambler Public Parking Lot.**

The garbage container at the entrance of Sammis Street bridge was constructed by a resident, Mr. Campbell, who is a carpenter. I approached him on building three of the same for us. He declined as he was too busy with his own projects.

I have found a company which specialize in many types of containers. The company is called Belson Outdoors. Bell Island has two of these containers on their dog park at the end of Crescent Beach and Yarmouth.

This is a heavyweight open top waste container. It is made out of 100% recycled plastic.

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It comes in three colors: cedar, brown and grey. The cost for the 32 gallon housing is \$246.00. A plastic liner with standard lid is: \$50.00. A dome top lid for the plastic liner is \$92.00. A permanent mount kit (galvanized) is \$44.00. My recommendation is to install one at the Public Parking Lot and one at the Farm Creek entrance. The container, liner and dome top would cost: \$388.00 each. This would duplicate the two that are in use on the Bell Island Dog Park.

**Total cost to the district: \$776.00. (The Commissioners approved this).**

### **Pinkney Park Main House Plumbing**

There have been on-going plumbing problems at the Pinkney House. The upstairs toilet leaked and caused ceiling damage to the main floor entrance. A new toilet was installed through Ed Carlson's guidance. Further plumbing problems have taken place over the winter:

Burst pipes from the outdoor toilet.

The room next to the kitchen has a leak in a pipe below the floor.

This problem can be seen when the water pressure is turned on.

It is located in a corner and just a few inches below the floor boards.

A written cost breakdown on all problems was requested from Ted Herz.

They are as follows:

1. Replace hot and cold water lines from basement under crawl space to kitchen.
2. These are what froze this past winter. The old washer was on these same lines. It was removed last fall.
3. Fully remove waste and feed lines from the old sink. The old lines were just capped.
4. Change all older valves in basement to new shut off valves.
5. Check all heat lines visible for valves and condition
6. Replace broken rear sill cock.

The estimate for this much needed work will be: **\$1,600.00. (The Commissioners approved this work).**

It was noted that once the plumber gets into the work, there will probably be other things found that need work. Andy Conroy asked that further work and expenditure be run by him first.

### **Pinkney Park Lawn**

Round Meadow Landscapes will be returning in the next week or so to re-grade and lay down top soil over the lawn behind Pinkney House, the Gazebo and the Museum

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Building. Following that they will fertilize and seed the area. They will also over-seed the new lawn from the beginning of the new seawall and blend this in with the unfinished area.

Once this is complete, we plan on installing a "geese proof" barrier across the front of the seawall. It will consist of 1 inch PVC pipe approximately 24 inches high. There will be two strands of plastic coated wire strung across the entire length of the seawall. We will attach tell-tail ribbons to the top wire as an added deterrent to keeping the geese from invading our new lawn and leaving their unsightly waste in their path.

Our neighbor across the river, A. C. Morgan, employed our landscaper to install the very same device with a 95% success.

(It was noted that the orange fencing now visible in Pinkney Park is temporary and will remain only long enough for the lawn seed to get established. It would also be ideal, if we have the funds, to wrap the PVC goose barrier around the park beyond the seawall)

### **Public Parking Lot Irrigation**

In an attempt to conserve and cut back on the cost of water usage through the sprinkler system surrounding the public parking lot, I have worked out a plan with East Coast Irrigation.

1. They will set the timer so that the water comes on every third day.
2. The water will run a little longer than normal allowing the plants and trees to receive enough water to saturate their roots.
3. The plants will then be allowed to dry out for three days.
4. The process of three days on and three days off will continue unless there is a drought of some sort. At that time, we will adjust the plan is needed.

### **Treasurer's Report - Andy Conroy**

This is the time of the year when the bank account starts to dry up. We are still financially in good shape, but we just don't have any extra.

The audit is done and is in the folder handed out. There is a letter that requires reading and responding to in certain spaces. The state has a bit of a problem with us having a part time treasurer. When there is an illness, there is no one who can back up the treasurer. They recommend we also have a part time accountant and a part time bookkeeper. If we don't do what is recommended, the audit reports will start to reflect this deficit. We need to answer their concerns within the next two weeks.

Capital Project Reviews: We need to decide which projects need to retain the funding that has been provided. We have had some selected projects that we've had for a long

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time without using the funds. We need to decide if we need to keep the funds for some of these projects available. If the Commissioners have not had an opportunity to study them now, Mr. Conroy suggested that they e-mail him their input.

Mr. Barbis noted that the money for the drainage problem at Bayley Beach should be kept and available. We need to find the right engineer to handle the problem. Andy explained that there is a very tight budget this year and that next year's budget will be even tighter. He recommends going over each item and accessing money that is not going to be spent. We need to do this within the next couple of days. He suggested using the meeting on April 20 which is called for affirming the beach rules be used to also discuss this need. He noted that the lighting problems for the great room have never been solved, so that money should be retained. Also, we need to spend a lot of money on the tree program, so that will need to be retained, as well.

Mr. Conroy presented the Commission members with copies of the Railroad Station budget. He explained that there is a lot less leeway in the budget because we can't spend much money without going through the DOT. We aren't supposed to do any repairs unless they approve them. However, if there are minor repairs, we go ahead and do them. We have more than \$150K beyond what we need to operate, which is available for capital improvements. We want to resurface the parking lot and there probably won't be much left over after that. DOT would like to expand the parking lot, but our community has not, in the past, supported that. Mike Barbis moved to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Tammy Langalis and was **APPROVED**.

### **Shakespeare on the Sound Presentation**

William Wilson, a 15 year Rowayton resident, spoke for SOS as its President and past Treasurer. He introduced board member Midge Kennedy and Operating Manager Mary Osborne. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that Shakespeare on the Sound had not always been a good neighbor and recognized that the attendant noise and light of their performances may be a disturbance. However, they also realize (as do most people) that they can't operate without impacting anyone. They do, however, wish to minimize that impact. Toward creating a "Culture of Compliance" SOS intend that all sound and lights will go out no later than 10:45 p.m. each night of their performances. They always hire a parking guard as they want to be good stewards of Witch Field. They have established a "hot line" for complaints and comments and hope that neighbors will contact them if they have a concern.

Toward these goals, SOS is proposing to build a barrier fence that will be up during the duration of the days of the performances. The fence would not be permanent and would be taken down the morning of June 29 after the last Rowayton performance. Mr. Wilson explained that the stage will be reconfigured this year and will actually back up to the existent wall. The proposed fence will cost about \$2500 to build and will reduce the impact of the noise and lights on the neighbors.

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In answer to a question from Mr. Kweskin, Mr. Wilson said that the wall would be about 6 feet tall and would be supported by numerous posts which will, of course, be removed when the fence is removed. SOS will fill the holes made for the posts after the fence is removed. A question was asked if SOS had considered any other kind of fence that would be less of a barrier. It is generally believed that part of the draw of SOS is that it is considered a festival that is visible as one drives into Rowayton. Mr. Wilson said that they had considered a canvas screen but had rejected that plan as being a danger in the case of high winds. If the fence were lower, they feel that children and maybe others would climb over it. Officer Joe Jensen asked what the schedule of the performances was. The approved schedule is June 16 - June 28. Mary Osborne, Managing Director of SOS, mentioned that they hoped to start a new initiative and to have a reading of the play during one of the days as just another way for the audience to understand more of what they are doing. After the performances, the fence components will be stored in a barn at Cranbury Park. Chris Kusske, a landscape architect, suggested that SOS is not being realistic about what it will take to keep the fence standing. He suggests that they will have to go 2' down to hold the fence up and that he has a generally bad feeling about the whole concept. It was also mentioned that being able to see "back stage" is one of the great parts of the festival. Apparently, this year's production is going to be staged more as indoor theater that happens to be outdoors. The desire of SOS is to get the community more "around" the stage instead of looking straight at it. They want the audience to feel that they are in the middle of the play rather than just viewing it.

It was suggested that there could possibly be areas of the fence that would be cut away during the day and replaced at the time of the performance. The concern is that people will not be able to see the water and that part of Pinkney Park while SOS is there. Greg Saum of the RCA commented that it would feel as if the village were divided and that people crossing the street to Pinkney was part of the charm of the whole festival feeling. It was felt that more police could be hired to protect children who might cross the street outside of the crosswalk, if that were the primary issue. Mr. Barbis didn't feel that the fence would do much to muffle the sound nor cut down considerably on the light spill out. It was felt that the fence would be closing the village off from the whole process. SOS feels that the fence will be a real improvement for the neighbors, especially from light pollution. Mr. Kweskin suggested that the fence not be one gigantic barrier. Residents would like to see gaps in the wall through which they might view the water during the day. It was suggested that perhaps SOS should find another venue in Norwalk. SOS, however, feels that it is important to everyone to keep it in Rowayton. Chris Kusske said that he felt it would be more honest to say that this is about where the set will be positioned. Barbara Garfield commented that the neighbors consider it a barrier and more offensive, esthetically and practically, than an attempt to ameliorate the light and sound impact. She feels that the neighbors would rather have the light and sound disturbance than see the fence there for the duration of the performances. Ed Kweskin noted that cars passing by are always a disturbance (at least the large trucks can no longer come through), but you have to decide what is more

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important. Mr. Kweskin also asked if there couldn't be a shorter fence so that an adult walking along the sidewalk next to Pinkney Park could see over the fence. It was noted that state law only requires a 4' fence around a swimming pool, so that is seen as a sufficient height to keep children out.

After hearing the presentation and the comments, the **Commissioners approved a fence that would be no higher than 4' above the ground at the sidewalk level.** SOS thanked the commissioners for allowing the presentation.

### **Presentation by Christopher Kusske, a landscape architect, for a long-range plan for Witch Park.**

Mr. Kusske noted that he had lived on Crest Road since 1985. He feels that the state of Witch Park could be improved to present a more aesthetically pleasing entry into Rowayton. He has done an analysis of the park referring to the slope, erosion and remnants of past uses of the site.

He proposed to describe each of the areas and how one might approach development of the park. His proposal would remove the old asphalt (which would improve the sledding experience for children). There could be a chance for pick-up baseball to be played in the park. He took his plans to the City of Norwalk, Parks and Recreation, since Norwalk owns Witch Park. The City is interested in upgrading the park, as well. But he would like the Sixth District to give its nod of approval to the upgrade of the park. Mr. Kweskin asked if the proposed plantings would prevent passers-by and neighbors from seeing into the park. Mr. Kusske answered that it would not and that deciduous trees would just fill in the open areas along the borders of the park. He would see no need for evergreens there. However, the landscape enhancements would make for more of a park-like setting and a slightly more contained space. In answer to a question regarding sledding in the park, Mr. Kusske said that removing the concrete slab and grading so that there is proper drainage would actually improve access to an area for sledding. He hasn't really worked on a budget for his plan. However, it would be phased in over a number of years. Mr. Conroy commented that he thought it would be essential to leave the "fence" for signs, as this has become an essential part of Rowayton life. Mr. Kusske said that very simple wrought iron fencing is envisioned for that area and it would still accommodate the signs. There was a concern that we might lose the ability to park cars there for certain events. Mr. Kusske acknowledged that Norwalk is very interested in seeing parking in the park stopped in the future. If parking were allowed, it wouldn't really qualify as a "park". In the future, there might be playground equipment added as well. Mr. Conroy and Mr. Barbis were in agreement that the park could be more attractive, but were not in favor of taking away the ability to park there or to hold some other events. John Cagnina mentioned that he would be more interested in seeing the sidewalks made safer. Residents of Hill Top Homes often walk into Rowayton on the sidewalks and they are not safe. We were all reminded that since that that part of

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Rowayton Avenue is a state road, Norwalk won't fix the sidewalks. Mr. Kusske said, that in any case, it would be in the interest of the District to have a plan which might be implemented at some time in the future. It was noted that the residents wish the Commission to take into consideration all of the historic uses of the park. Mr. Kweskin suggested scheduling some time at a future meeting to alert people to the possibilities related to the park. Mr. Kusske indicated his willingness to come back to answer questions at any time. Mr. Kweskin said this needed to be a discussion with the whole community. This could easily be a 10 year plan. We will put it on the agenda under Old Business for the next meeting, meaning that we will discuss it only and take no action at that time.

Mr. Kweskin asked if there were any other comments from the residents in attendance. It was mentioned that the crosswalk on Rowayton Avenue between Pinkney Park and the Rowayton United Methodist Church is routinely ignored. It was asked if a crosswalk sign could be displayed. Jack Robson will talk with someone at DPW about this.

A motion was made by Tammy Langalis and seconded by Mike Barbis to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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