

DRAFT

**MINUTES  
MONTHLY MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk  
June 9, 2010**

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

The June meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commission was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis. Ms. Langalis introduced all of the Commission to those in attendance.

Under **New Business**, Mrs. Langalis recognized Jeff Gerwig, a representative from the Rowayton Power and Sail Squadron. Mr. Gerwig announced that the Rowayton Power and Sail Squadron is disbanding. However, they would like to continue to serve the community. They had some university level seminars last fall and would like to still be able to hold them in the Community Center. In spite of this, they can't justify keeping the local squadron going. They would like to let the Rowayton community know that they appreciate the support that they have received in the past. Mr. Gerwig asked the Commissioners' permission to donate a 5 foot long teak bench and a 6 foot long teak picnic table to Pinkney Park. They have chosen teak since it is almost impervious to moisture. It has been their experience that pressure treated benches tend to get rough over time. They have some funds left in their treasury and would like to spend it in this way. They would want to put brass plaques on the bench and picnic table identifying them as gifts of the Rowayton Power and Sail Squadron. They will also be giving some funds to the library and to further education. Tammy Langalis thanked Mr. Gerwig, noting that the proposed bench and picnic table look great and that the Commissioners are happy to allow Mr. Gerwig to proceed with his plan. Ed Carlson asked Mr. Gerwig if he would like the table to be anchored. The answer was yes for both the bench and the table. Mr. Gerwig was asked to notify the Commissioners when the items are about to be delivered.

Under **Old Business**, Dick Schock had an idea for new and improved parking tickets at the Rowayton Railroad station. They have a provision for both \$5 and \$10 violations.

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Two**

There is also a logo on the ticket which identifies it. The logo was obtained royalty free. Ms. Langalis handed out copies of the proposed violations to the Commission. After discussion, it was decided to remove the proposed violation for unauthorized parking in a handicapped space as the verbiage on the sign is not correct. It was also decided to remove the proposed violation for parking in the center of the lot as there are instances when the guards direct center lane parking. The question was asked if the Bayley Beach records could be accessed in order to identify non-permitted parking violators. The question was answered in the affirmative. There will be a few days of grace in instituting these new violations after the 2010-2011 permits are issued. Ms. Langalis noted that the Commission appreciates Dick Schock's efforts in regard to the new tickets and the revised list of violations. A question arose as to the necessity of ensuring that permit holders have valid registrations. Mr. Barbis noted that we will talk further about that issue in the future.

### **REPORTS**

**Commissioner John Igneri** reported that the Commission is continuing to transition the insurance over to the new agency. They will issue replacement insurance on all the fire trucks at the same cost to us. The new agency has determined that some properties are not properly insured, but will be in the future.

The Tokeneke Bridge (White Bridge) has been approved by the DEP for demolition. A replacement pedestrian bridge has also been approved. Some research with the state historical society is being undertaken. The replacement bridge will look like the bridge behind the Silvermine school. It will be a utilitarian suspension bridge.

**Commissioner Mike Barbis** reported that there is an agreement with the frequent dog park users regarding the proposed fence. These dog owners have raised the money to purchase the material for the new fence. Ed Carlson and his crew have almost finished the fence. The west side of the park has been fenced off which will create better access to the green house, the paddle courts, the west side of the property, etc. There are new gates for the dog park.

The Community Dock, which is not a Sixth Taxing District responsibility but is owned by the City of Norwalk with RCA oversight, has a lot of residents upset. We've been playing the intermediary. Our General Counsel is going to interpret the deed to it. There will be more on this issue later.

We have had a good start to the season at Bayley Beach. Don Wilson, the Beach Director, will be staying through more of September this year.

There is a lot of activity in Pinkney Park now. The fence will go up on June 11. The Farmer's Market is in full swing. The RPE cancelled a recent concert there by

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Three**

Annie and the Natural Wonder Band. Heavy rain had been forecast and did materialize. They will reschedule the concert later in the summer.

Andy Conroy asked about the Community Dock and also a request for a variance for a driveway. In a separate issue, Mr. Conroy asked about roads in the beach association that might close on some weekends. Can everyone get out at high tide? Also, if someone is using GPS, they would believe that those roads are usable. Anchor and Compass Roads are the ones in question. Responding to a suggestion to declassify these roads as roads, it was noted that there are huge ramifications to removing a road's official classification.

**Commission Chair Tammy Langalis** commented that the flag pole at the cannon triangle is looking a bit sad. She asked Ed and/or Jack to look into replacing or improving the flag pole. Ed said that he got an estimate a few years ago and that it was partially repainted a few years ago. Ed will look for that estimate. It will be repainted this summer. The line could be replaced. A question was asked as to how the staff would know when to fly the flag at half staff and when to put it back at full staff. It was suggested that the flag remains at half staff until the burial of the person whose death created the requirement to fly the flag at half staff. Ed said he just watches the paper to inform himself as we aren't officially notified by anyone. Tammy thanked Ed for keeping an eye open for this.

Mrs. Langalis said that she had spoken with Wendell Livingston as the President of the Historical Society to ask about the most appropriate place to have an historical marker on a building. This inquiry was in regard to Bob Pettus' request to have a Welcome to Rowayton sign include "Home of the Business Computer" on it. It is agreed that a sign affixed to the Community Center as the actual place where the Business Computer originated is the most appropriate. The Commissioners and those in attendance were all in agreement that a sign should be affixed to the Community Center.

The Commissioners wished to discuss the potential safety issues concerning the Memorial Day parade. At the end of the parade it seemed that there was no clear direction as to where participants were expected to disperse. The need to have someone at this point to direct the walkers/marchers was discussed. Mike Barbis noted that there were a lot of cars parking on Rowayton Avenue just prior to the parade. He wondered if there had been No Parking signs put up. It was suggested that Rowayton Avenue be shut down earlier in the future. These issues were brought to the attention of Lori Goertz, the RCA representative at the meeting so that they may be taken back to the RCA. Lori said that the RCA was aware of the problems and were working on correcting these issues in the future. Joe Jensen underscored the need for No Parking signs.

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Four**

The Commissioners thanked Joe Jensen for recently positioning a speed trailer on Roton Avenue. Tammy noted that she had received the insurance certificate from Joe Gallo and that the Commissioners have signed a lease with him.

It was reported that a resident is concerned about the signs on the Old School Field fence. It was asked whether a standard for signs needs to be established and it was noted that the issue was not the signs on the fence but the ones being stuck in the ground around town. Some feel that the signs advertising the Farmer's Market, SOS, the Arts Center events, and the CCNS Art Show were a bit of an overkill. Mike suggested that we could make a ruling regarding the signs or we could contact those who put them out asking them to remove them. If they don't comply, the Commissioners would remove them. It was pointed out that very few people ask permission to put up the signs. Joe Jensen said that he removed signs that were for commercial interests. Regarding the Old School Field fence, John Igneri said that Mike Mocciae would like to replace the community fence with a white vinyl one. Mr. Mocciae would like to run cables on the fence so that signs could be clipped to the cable. He would like it to be 5' tall and run for 80 - 90 feet. It was suggested that the fence could be shorter and flowers could be planted on the corner. Jeff Gerwig suggested that a time limit should be put on how long the signs may remain posted. Tammy suggested that any fence should blend in more and not be white. It was also suggested that the RCA could possibly conduct a poll to see what the public's feeling would be. Perhaps a neighbor would be interested in providing a new chain link fence. It was also noted that Doug Bora consistently has asked that the sidewalk running along the fence be fixed. Mike will speak with Andy Glazer. It was also agreed that we don't want to issue rules about the signs. The Clerk was instructed to e-mail SOS, the organizers of the Farmer's Market, the Art Center and CCNS regarding the proliferation of event signs and ask that they limit the number that are posted.

Tammy Langalis announced that the District is transitioning from Andy Conroy as Treasurer to John Verel, the new Treasurer. Andy will be training John in the coming days and the transition may be completed by the end of July.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CLERK**

**Andrea Woodworth**

1. 942 Bayley Beach permit applications have been processed to date.
2. The renewal of the currently held Rowayton Railroad parking permits will be on June 19, 2010. Any permits available after that process will be sold on June 26.
3. The Rowayton Power Squadron is disbanding. They will be having a party at the Pavilion at Bayley Beach on August 28, 2010. They have asked me to inquire whether the parking fees could be waived for those attending from out of District. **APPROVED**

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Five**

4. The two Underground groups will be having picnics at Bayley Beach this Friday, June 11, and next Friday, June 18. They have asked if they might use the Pavilion for these parties. Could we waive the rental fee and insurance requirement for them? **APPROVED, with the provision that Sue Bucciarelli is in charge of the event**
5. There are quite a few parties scheduled for the Pavilion at Bayley Beach already this summer and a few already held. There is one wedding reception scheduled at the Community Center on July 17 and another wedding reception may be scheduled here for August 28. There was a party at the Community Center last Saturday for the Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club.
6. I have forwarded to the Commissioners a request from the Rowayton United Methodist Church to hold a "Rowayton Steeple Chase" in Pinkney Park on the afternoon and early evening of August 28. This will, hopefully, be a nice "garden party" with a pretend fox hunt and race using stick puppets of horses and dogs. Light refreshments will be served to RUMC members and friends. I have some pictures of the proposed race "participants" (circulated) **APPROVED**
7. Rowayton Avenue between Devil's Garden Road and Hunt Street will be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on June 14 - June 17 to facilitate the removal of the existing bridge steel for Track 4.

### **REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGER June 2010 Ed Carlson**

#### **Community Center:**

1. The new fence for the dog park is almost complete. The cost of material was less than I estimated.
2. The lock for the ice house was replaced by the RCA. They installed a combination lock to make it easier for their members.
3. The lower gutters have been cleaned.

#### **Bayley Beach:**

1. The men's tennis court bathroom was plugged by a tennis ball. The cost to clear the problem is being shared by the Little League and the RTA.

#### **Pinkney Park:**

1. A second act of vandalism has occurred with the breaking of bottles near the barn. I have moved the blue recycle bin into the barn.
2. The goose fence has been installed using the material supplied by Jack. I have not seen any geese on the lawn since.

## MINUTES - June 9, 2010

### Page Six

#### Ambler Lot:

1. The Rodeo herbicide has been sprayed on the bamboo. It will probably need a second application

In separate remarks, Ed Carlson stated that, as the dog fence is almost complete, Gail Jaques has talked with Edwina. She will be transferring funds from the dog park users' bank account to ours. Ed asked if we could do the special gate now if we have the money. There is a gate at the McKinley entrance.

As reported, the lock on the ice house was replaced by the RCA. The root cellar has a lock that the Gardeners put on it.

The lower gutters on the Community Center building have been cleaned but not the upper gutters as of yet.

Ed reported that he had called a contractor to unplug the men's tennis toilet and a tennis ball had been removed. Pete Koerner of the RTA and Roger Knight of the Little League have agreed to share the cost of the contractor.

The reported vandalism at Pinkney Park was that bottles were removed from the blue recycling bin and broken on the concrete pad between the barn and the house. SOS had moved the blue bin out. The goose fence is up and no geese have been seen. Ed referred to an e-mail re: a sewer line break in Pinkney Park. Do we require another estimate other than the one he got? The stump where the spruce tree was will need to come out. The break is just past where that stump is. The clay line goes to the old septic tank. Tammy asked Ed if he thought the first estimate was fair. Ed replied that he believed it was even at the \$1500 price, noting that the stump must be removed. It was asked if Ed feels this is important to do before the SOS performances begin. Ed thinks the repair can wait until after SOS is over since repairing it may lead to digging up part of the park. In any case, port-a-potties will be provided during SOS.

#### REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

May 2010

Ed Carlson

<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		20
Fire Marshal Conferences	***	***
Career Development Training	2	6
Investigation(s)	***	***
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2

**MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

**Page Seven**

(Other) Carnival Ride Inspection	1	3
(Other) Temp. structure permit & inspection	1	1
(Other) Fire Drill @ Hilltop Homes	1	2
<b>Total Man Hrs.</b>		<b>37</b>

Expenses:

Remarks to the Commissioners: If there are available funds in the new fiscal year, I would like to see the kitchen hood suppression system tied into the building alarm system.

In other remarks, Mr. Carlson noted that the Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department has contracted to have their maintenance done by a company in Rocky Hill. This is the same company that is providing the new engine. That new engine may be at Rocky Hill by August 13.

He also mentioned that he heard last week that Hill Top Homes got the grant approved for the fire sprinklers.

**REPORT OF OFFICER JOE JENSEN**

Joe reported that one of the signs in the lower lot at the Community Center noting that the park is closed at 10 p.m. was knocked down or otherwise removed. There is also some graffiti on the paddle courts which has been there for awhile. We should probably get a new sign for the lower lot.

Officer Jensen reported that he had called the Darien Police concerning a lot of truck traffic on Rte 136 and asked their assistance in controlling this illegal traffic. The call was entered into their log. He stated that he hoped that the NPD would work more closely with the DPD on these issues with offending trucks. Tammy Langalis noted that there is a traffic light going in on Rte 136 where Cliff Road intersects Tokeneke Road.

Joe mentioned that there had been excess parking around the entrance to Pinkney Park on Farmer's Market days, which he is attempting to discourage. He would like to see more traffic cones placed to keep people from parking there. Joe has also been discouraging teens from hanging out in Ambler Lot. He has asked Barbara Conroy if they would put a light up there as well as some "No Trespassing" signs.

The ongoing concern regarding speeding cars on Roton Avenue and Pine Point Road was raised. The Clerk was asked to send letters to the clubs at the beach asking them to remind their members to drive slowly and safely. Tammy asked if the speed limit

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Eight**

of 25 mph could be changed. That is a difficult thing to do.

Officer Jensen said that he had recently issued a \$120 ticket to a person who blatantly ignored the stop sign at Witch and Rowayton Avenue.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR - Jack Robson**

#### **Community Center Tree Plan**

Almstead Tree & Shrub Care has ground all 20 stumps around the Community Center property. Now we have plenty of wood chips to use as mulch. **Cost \$2,920.00**

Three maple trees on Highland Avenue were cut down and one cedar behind the Community Center building was cut down. All trees were a hazard, dying or were infected. Plus trim of all remaining maple trees. **Cost: \$4,280.00**

9 Red Oaks were planted in the Dog Park, lining Highland Avenue and McKinley,  
6 Sugar Maple were planted along the north Highland side of the Community Center  
Six sugar maple trees will be paid for by DPW. Cost: \$4,560.00

Two Red Oak trees will be paid for by DPW. Cost: \$1,520.00

Seven Red Oak trees will be paid for by the Sixth Taxing District. **Cost: \$5,320.00**

**Total expenses for tree removal, pruning and new tree planting: \$12,520.00**

**Balance remaining in the tree budget: \$9,330.00**

Two established trees at the entrance to the Community Center will need to be removed and transplanted in a year or two. They are too close to the sugar maple that was planted. This will become a crowded situation in the near future. The remaining maple trees on the corner of Highland and McKinley will need to be removed in a few years to give the new Red Oak room to grow. The sugar maple on Highland Avenue that was spared can be saved. The remaining Norway maple, at the north end of Highland, will remain for now. (Mike Barbis suggested getting an estimate to do this work in the fall. We will have to see then if we have the funds. We didn't realize that that would be a problem before when we set up the master tree plan).

The planting of the dogwoods along Highland Avenue has been delayed. This will now take place in the fall. The Planning Committee has asked if the Commissioners would write a letter to Hal Alvord requesting the removal of the juniper bushes along the north end of the state owned property on Highland Avenue, so as to create a better esthetic appearance, once the new dogwoods have been planted.

The chain link fence at the McKinley entrance will be repaired next week.

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Nine**

#### **The Community Center Drainage System**

I have not called McVac Environmental back as I have been waiting for Ed's busy schedule to ease up and allow him time to clean the gutters and downspouts. McVac requested this be done before they would start with their cleaning of the storm drains. Added debris collected in the gutters since the last cleaning due to the severe storm the area encountered.

#### **Pinkney Park**

Ed Carlson and crew installed a replica of A. C. Morgan's goose fence. "Doggie Do Not" was called to rake the lawn on Thursday, May 27, 2010. Starting out with a clean lawn, after the "goose fence" was installed, will allow us to monitor the geese activity. So far, I have not seen evidence of the geese returning. Hopefully this will continue to prove effective. (The materials for the goose fence cost less than \$200).

#### **Bayley Beach**

Silvestri Fencing will start working on the repair of the entry fence next week. The Dog Park fence will be done at the same time. Silvestri Fencing was scheduled to start on the Friday before Memorial Day, but I cancelled this anticipating a lot of traffic for both beach clubs that day.

#### **Ambler Parking Lot & 140 Rowayton Avenue**

There is a tree behind the condos at 240 Rowayton Avenue that might be a hazard to a condo at 140 Rowayton Avenue. We have discussed this before. I took it a step further and presented an option to John Scala, Kevin Conroy's supervisor. I suggested that we share the cost of either the partial removal of the limbs in question or the whole tree. Larry Brown, Tree Specialist, has looked at the tree and offered some suggestions on partial or total removal.

Alexis, from Conservation, does not have a problem with a partial or even total removal of the tree, if it is in fact a hazard to a building so long as we do not disturb the wetlands or cause a problem in the wetlands.

Kevin Conroy has not given me an answer on splitting the cost, should we decide to go forward with this.

#### **Rowayton RR Parking Lot**

There will be some extensive work done on the bridge and tracks in the near future. This will cause commuters some inconvenience, but it can't be helped if this project is to move forward. Pat Proto from the ConnDOT Project Office held a meeting Tuesday, June 8, to go over the details. They are as follows:

- Track 4 Bridge Demolition - Monday, June 14 through Thursday, June 17 nights

- South Stairway Closure

- Temporary Storage of Precast Units at end of NY side

## **MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

### **Page Ten**

#### Stage 8 Abutment Demolition and Construction

At the meeting I was told that we would receive advance notice of all scheduled work, allowing us time to post the parking lots and inform commuters of the pending work and inconveniences that will come with this work.

The New Haven side stairway will end up 6" narrower than it is at present. The walkway under the bridge will be closed when construction begins. Commuter passage will be directed to the opposite side of the street. The Norwalk Police will be on duty to control the operation.

The street will be closed to traffic while widening of the bridge takes place.

The minimum new clearance under the bridge will be 12ft 5 inches vs. the existing 11.6 ft. 90 ft. of chain link fence on the New Haven side is in bad shape. It might need to be replaced from the top of the stairwell. This is a safety issue with the engineers.

The old original iron railing on the New Haven side of the bridge will be removed and saved. I assume this can be stored in the barn or behind the barn for now.

Dot's contracted landscaping requirement is to seed the grounds once work has been completed. I explained that to put grass on the mound at the entrance to the New York bound side would be impossible to maintain due to the severe grade. I suggested to Brian Sweeney (DPW) and to DOT that a retainer wall needed to be built around this area, to lessen the grade and then put in maintenance free plants and ground cover to hold the soil. Brian Sweeney said he would look at this once the bridge work has been completed, but said that money was tight and they may not be able to afford it.

Vibrations will be felt by the surrounding home owners once the drilling begins as the engineers are pinning the supporting stone to bedrock.

The issue with icicles forming under the bridge during the winter months will be corrected.

Commuter parking on the New York bound side could become a problem due to heavy equipment needed on site. The guards should park cars in the middle of the lot if this becomes an issue. The heavy equipment will be stored in the back of the lot. They anticipate occupying 4 to 6 parking spots.

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

**Andy Conroy**

**(See attached report)**

Andy reported that, as he explained last month, we have to fund ourselves until

**MINUTES - June 9, 2010**

**Page Eleven**

the tax revenues start to roll in during August/September. He has been carefully controlling the receipts and railroad parking lot receipt collections have shown a large increase since Dick Schock became the supervisor and started work in the early morning. Andy predicted that if we raised the daily parking rate to \$7 the railroad lots would become self-funding. This would help if we wanted to do extra projects. If the beach receipts were aggressively collected, it might become self funding as well. We need to take the same diligent effort at the beach as we have at the railroad station. One focal point at Bayley Beach is the guard operation. These two entities operate the same way.

One last item from the agenda is to approve the May minutes. John Igneri made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 12, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mike Barbis seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion or corrections, the motion carried unanimously and the Minutes from the May 12, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

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