

DRAFT

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
July 13, 2011**

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

Commissioner Tammy Langalis called the July meeting of the Commissioners of the Sixth Taxing District to order at 8:08 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and Introduced all members of the Commission.

Commissioner John Igneri made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting as submitted. Commissioner Mike Barbis seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Mrs. Langalis noted that we've just finished another season of Shakespeare on the Sound in Pinkney Park. Since there has been an ongoing conversation in the community on the subject of the Shakespeare production, the Commissioners Invited representatives from Shakespeare on the Sound to be present at this meeting and to both hear from the residents and to present their thoughts on the many aspects of the production.

Mrs. Langalis first asked Commissioner John Igneri to speak. Commissioner Igneri thanked SOS Managing Director Emily Bryan for the nice letter in The Hour which thanked the Commission and others in the community that were involved with this year's production. Mr. Igneri went on to say that the most frequent comment (or question) directed to him was "Who is the _____ person who decided to reseed Pinkney Park in the spring?" Mr. Igneri said that he was the one who had decided that. He also stressed that the revitalization of a lawn is not a one shot project. It's a long term project. He said that there were so many weeds in the park and that needed to be addressed. Reseeding is one way to do that. He said that we will continue to reseed and the lawn will be better next spring. They did consider that SOS, the River Ramble, the Farmer's Market would put stress on the lawn, but they felt that it was necessary to get a lawn growing before those events. There was

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Two

damage to the lawn and SOS will be responsible for patching the lawn where it was traumatized. Right now it is too hot to reseed and they feel it is better to wait. Mrs. Langalis noted that the District got a generous donation from the film company that used Pinkney Park in November and they used some of that for the spring seeding. They didn't use any District funds.

In anticipation of the discussion about Shakespeare on the Sound, Mrs. Langalis said that the Commissioners will not be making any decisions tonight regarding SOS. She welcomed hearing from anyone who wishes to speak but asked that comments be kept to no more than five minutes per person. She also asked that each speaker begin by stating their name and address.

Bard Jones, 176 Rowayton Avenue, was the first speaker. He read a prepared statement, which follows:

My name is Bard Jones. I live at 176 Rowayton Avenue. Our house is at the corner of Rowayton Avenue and Pennoyer Street, directly across from Pinkney Park.

I would like to address the recent production put on by Shakespeare On the Sound.

It would be an understatement if I said that Shakespeare On The Sound had anything less than a devastating impact on the quality of our lives. For a month my wife and I suffered through nightmarish lights shining into our home and unbearably loud surround-sound music. The thumping parts actually rattled our windows. The physiological impact was so unbearable that I asked, actually begged, many times for people, commissioners, board members, the SOS president Richard Costello, to come to our home and be witness to what can only be described as a grave intrusion into our lives.

I'd like to read the e-mail I sent to board president Richard Costello On June 2nd:

Dear Richard,
Since I have never heard from you, I am unsure whether or not you Have been made aware of the severe disruption the Shakespeare production, *Much Ado About Nothing*, has had on us. In past correspondence with Marie Reynolds and Emily Ryan, I have discussed a host of problems. Some have been addressed, only to resurface. Others, not at all.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Three

As an example, at a neighborhood gathering at William Wilson's House where Shakespeare was engendering good will by listening to our concerns, I suggested that a short list of responsibilities be given to the police covering the event to ensure a continuity each night since a different person would cover the event. The result was the *Police Protocol for Shakespeare on the Sound*. Despite an assurance that this would be followed, it is only inconsistently administered by Shakespeare.

We had a tremendous problem with the bank of 4 high intensity lights on the back of the trailer truck. They were directed at our house. While they have been turned off, it took a long time and numerous e-mails, phone calls and pleas for Shakespeare to respond to this disruption. Now these lights have been replaced by 2 large spot lights which still shine into our house. What happened to theatrical canister lights that shine onto the stage and not into someone's house? Nothing has been done about the surround-sound amplification. It is very loud. I had asked in previous correspondence if Shakespeare has taken any sound level decibel readings, but no one answered me. As you know, the speakers are hoisted high above the stage and are directed at our house. The music and dance numbers are excessively loud. I ask again, please lower the sound level. If you can hear the amplification in our house, surely the audience can hear it. Must the sound be so loud for people to enjoy the show?

I have been a past contributor to Shakespeare. Before cell phones, we had the Shakespeare phone line and answering machine in our garage. I have been a financial contributor as well. While I won't address the production from an artistic standpoint I think the show has evolved to a point where it seems like it belongs at the Levitt Pavilion in Westport not our grassy knoll in Rowayton. In any case, this level of a production has had a very negative impact on our quality of life. As in my past correspondence with Marie and Emily, I offered any Shakespeare board member an opportunity to come to our house during the performance to witness first hand what we are living through. No one has done so. With only two days to go, I again make this offer, directly to you.

Thank you
Bard Jones

Richard never accepted the invitation to come to our home. That tells me he knew we were reporting the disruptions accurately.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Four

It is not right, morally, for Shakespeare On The Sound to come into our neighborhood and, without due regard for those of us who live here, and claim the high road: that they are putting on a revered Shakespeare play – this elitism does not trump the etiquette of treating us with courtesy. When no one will listen and exercise common decency, I think it is time for SOS to pack up and leave.

SOS is not like the River Ramble . . . a beloved community event, of and for the people of Rowayton. SOS is not a community event anymore . . . look at where many of the board members live . . . it's not Rowayton. SOS has become a regional event, drawing people from other towns and even NYC according to a person I spoke with. Why can't SOS then go from town to town and put on their plays? Why do they believe they have the right to be here year after year Give us all a rest, please!

And just so you don't think I'm a poor sport, last year was just as bad. But I didn't stand up and say anything. Again this year, I dutifully went to William Wilson's house on Crest to listen to the SOS sweet talk. Previously, they even let me think I was special. They wrote up the *Police Protocol*, something I had advocated to keep the pedestrians safe and the traffic at bay. But do you know what, they never enforced it. On a show night, I even spoke to a board member about enforcing the written, SOS agreed upon, format by the neighborhood. I had the sheet of paper. But nothing was done.

In conclusion:

My take . . . and this is not said with malice or disrespect, but from my perspective, SOS will tell you what they think you want to hear . . . but their actions are not consistent with their assurances.

Thank you.

The next speaker was Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road. She said that she spends a lot of time in Pinkney Park because she loves it. She has had occasion to speak with many of the people who were there for Shakespeare. She finds them all to be very creative and very nice people. She says that they are very dedicated people. She thought the staging was fabulous. Her granddaughter who attends Rowayton Elementary is very excited about the Shakespeare production as are so many other school children. Ms. Scott feels that Shakespeare on the Sound is a great thing for Rowayton to have. It is wonderful for the school children. You only have to watch the crowds and see how sincerely people are enjoying the experience. She feels that SOS is a great asset to Rowayton and we are lucky to have them.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Five

Richard Alexander, 22 Meridian Road said that he and his family have always gone to the SOS productions since they have lived in Rowayton. They find it to provide a great level of entertainment. The educational week-long program is wonderful for the children. His daughters have both been totally engaged. He commended SOS for drawing children in at such a young age. He acknowledges that there are sometimes problems with the set design and direction as well as the noise, etc. Mr. Alexander feels that these problems can be addressed and still have SOS in Rowayton.

Cherie Burton, 21 Indian Spring, said that she was the Managing Director of SOS in the past. She said that she was surprised to learn that there was a new set of responsibilities for police. She said that when she was involved as the Managing Director, they always had sets of duties and protocols for the police and for other helpers and volunteers. She said that they also had a relationship with Norwalk Hospital. There were procedures to follow if there was a health issue. As a board member now, she feels a great sense of responsibility for SOS. During her tenure, SOS started having community meetings with the neighbors. They always gave the schedule to the neighbors. The meetings were meant to be informative and not “sweet talking”. She feels very positive about the educational aspect of this organization and feels that it is a very good thing for children. There are also 6 members of the board – half of them – who live in Rowayton.

Tammy Langalis then read several e-mails that the Commissioners had received from various people in the community who wished to comment but couldn't be at tonight's meeting. The first one was from Andy Glazer, 189 Rowayton Avenue. Andy said that SOS has gone from a community based operation to one that is controlled by outside interests. He feels that SOS has run its course in Rowayton.

Skip Mercier, 158 Highland Avenue, said that he was proud to be a Rowayton theater professional. He thought the show was just terrific, far better than those in Central Park. He noted how difficult it is to stage a production without a theater building. He feels that the current SOS direction sets the artistic bar very high and that we are lucky to have such a quality production in Rowayton.

Kirk Stirland, 13 Craw Avenue, said that he thought that Shakespeare's presence in Pinkney Park in what he describes as an encampment during the high season turned our park, the centerpiece of the town, into a construction zone and created an offensive eyesore. This is in addition to destroying a significant part of the lawn. SOS should certainly pay for the damage done. In future, Mr. Stirland suggests that the Commissioners should require a full graphic representation of the set for any future performances. The best solution would be an end to Shakespeare productions in Rowayton.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Six

Patrick Steele, 12 Highland Avenue, in a tongue-in-cheek e-mail, said that since Route 136 through Rowayton is designated as a “No Thru Trucks” zone, the stage set for this year’s SOS production created a violation of that rule – at least in spirit.

John Igneri said that the Commissioners have heard many opinions both pro and con regarding the Shakespeare production. Another resident was in attendance at the June meeting and spoke about the eyesore of the set and felt that Shakespeare should not come back to Rowayton.

Richard Alexander, 22 Meridian Road, asked if the Commissioners have received any comments from the merchants in town. He said that he knows that several merchants do quite a bit of business because of Shakespeare and are very anxious for it not to go away.

Richard Costello, President of the SOS board, 33 Gillies Lane, thanked Bard for his comments and concerns and said that his issues very definitely need to be taken care of. However, he feels that those attending the performances love it and that it would be criminal and sad to limit the creative power going on here. He also said that he hadn’t really heard any response to what Bard has said and said that we need to hear with some more respect. He said that the SOS board has learned from this experience. Mr. Costello provided his e-mail response to Mr. Jones’ e-mail previously read. It follows:

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your e-mail and also thank you for your financial support of Shakespeare on the Sound.

Regarding your concerns:

1. I have been at the front desk for 3 of the performances this season. On each occasion, when the Norwalk police officer arrived for his or her duty either Emily or Marie personally briefed the officer on the protocol. The protocol is on 2 laminated cards that are stored at the front desks so they are readily available to be reviewed with the officer. I will be at the front desk tonight (Saturday) and will make sure our procedure is followed as usual.
2. Regarding sound and light issues, we try to be sensitive to our neighbors but we have to balance this with the need to make the production visible and audible to the audience that is attending the performance. As the location and design of the set changes every year (and has done so since we first started the organization in 1996),

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Seven

lighting and sound designs also change. Our Artistic Director and her technical team are always trying to reduce the audio and visual impact on our neighbors without compromising the production or audience experience. As you noted, the lighting design this year was modified after you voiced concerns.

3. One systemic way we have tried to reduce the impact of our production on our neighbors is to significantly reduce the number of performances we do in Pinkney Park the last 3 years. From 2000 through 2008 we scheduled either 15 or 16 performances in Rowayton. Over the last 3 years we have reduced the number of performances, this year we will do 10, which is the lowest number of performances since 1997. It is a 38% reduction in performances versus our peak of 16. However, we cannot go any lower without negatively impacting the economics of the organization.

I realize we are an intrusion on you and your family's life for several weeks every year. On behalf of the organization I thank you for your patience and forbearance.

I will be in the park from about 5 pm this afternoon if you want to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
Richard Costello

Emily Bryan, Shakespeare on the Sound Managing Director, said that as far as the police duties were concerned, the police protocol was given to the police every night. We have been trying as an organization to get along with everyone. She knows that the SOS productions bring joy to the community. However, it's become a very difficult place to work. She and Rocco Natale (who works in the SOS office) have resigned. She said that SOS has tried to alleviate the sound problem and tried to not disturb the neighbors. But there are 1000 people in the park every night. They mean no disrespect but that many people in any location is going to cause some disturbance in the area. She tried to find space in the village to use for dressing rooms instead of the Methodist Church directly across from Mr. Jones' home. She had no success with that. They felt that bringing in the trailer for backstage support would be less invasive and cause less damage to the grass. Generally, she knows that SOS brings a lot of people into the community and, from that standpoint, is good for Rowayton.

Mary Ann Jones, 176 Rowayton Avenue, said that they were most upset at the lack of responsiveness to their concerns especially given the pre-performance assurances from SOS. They were told that the set would be a pre-fab set and

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Eight

brought in already made. We never heard about the terrible set before it appeared. They felt it was not in keeping with the neighborhood and Rowayton

Joanna Settle, Brooklyn, New York, SOS Artistic Director, said she wished to be speak to the creative end of the production. Mrs. Langalis asked her if she was thinking about the impact to the residents. After the fence went up a couple of years ago, there was much consternation about that. Now, the residents seem to accept the fence. However, people feel that this is NOT New York and we're more "country" out here, and that goes a long way to explain the way the set was received. Ms. Settle said that, as promised, they always stopped the sound at 10:30 p.m. She said they were really working under pretty primitive conditions. Along with the contractual restraints, there were weather issues which gave them only four technical rehearsals in the park. They had six hours to get the production into show condition. They also had to move the lights. That, combined with the sound constraints, caused them to have to reset all the cues. They had to move the lights in stages. There is a certain level of exposure that has to be assumed if we are going to have "art". She appreciates that most people don't understand the issues in these kinds of changes. She said their mission was to bring the most people to Shakespeare. They also need to integrate the respect deserved. She does appreciate that it is the only Shakespeare production in a residential neighborhood and that creates a lot of problems. She said the experience was grueling and exhausting for her personally. She said that residents came into the park and yelled at the Shakespeare production people. They had to spend an inordinate amount of energy in being in this location. The town and SOS needs to really consider the location for future years.

Richard Costello, President of the SOS Board, said that he had responded to Mr. Jones within two hours of his e-mail. He allowed that as SOS has grown, it has become more and more difficult to manage. A number of years ago they decided to take the production to Greenwich for part of the run in order to reduce the pressures on the community of them being here. They thought by pushing some of the audience to another place, they would alleviate some of the pressure on Rowayton. That venue is much easier to deal with since it is larger and it is flat. He did grant that he would not want to live next door to this production. He just wanted everyone to know that SOS is just as stressed as some of the neighbors are. It has historically worked out, but it doesn't seem to be working now. He wanted to make clear that they don't love to upset the community. They have 5,000 people coming to the park. It is not their intention to generate excess noise and lights, but that is the result of such a large number of people and such a production. The board will continue to look for solutions for this dilemma. They have tried to keep to the rules laid out by the Commissioners. Their objective is to make art for the community. This was an extraordinarily well received production. What we're trying to do with the play and what they're succeeding at – is not to do something,

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Nine

necessarily, that is pastoral.

Dick Schock, 5 McKendry Court, said that he knows Bard Jones to be a very reasonable guy. He felt it wasn't appropriate that no one had really responded to his concerns. It seemed that by not responding to his statement, he wasn't given the respect he was due.

Leslie Lawrence, 18 Range Road, stated that she is on the SOS Board. She wanted to reiterate that SOS gives so much back to the community, especially through their educational programs, internships and camps. They work through Rowayton Elementary and through Rowayton Library. The children all get so excited at the prospect of learning about Shakespeare and of being given a chance to see a production of the play. It teaches them at an early age that Shakespeare is not scary. The intern program has brought in students from many surrounding high schools and has taught them what it means to be in the theater. We've taught over 1,000 kids this year.

Joe Jensen, 304 Rowayton Avenue, said he has watched as this great tradition has grown. He did mention that this year, the music seemed to be louder than ever before this. The pulsating music, especially, could be heard thumping at his house.

Rocco Natale, 16 Fletcher Avenue, SOS administrative assistant, wished to speak to what Emily and Joanna had said. He wanted to attest to how respectful SOS tries to be to the community. He observed a lot of verbal abuse of the staff in Pinkney Park. He thought it was so very disrespectful when a man gets in a woman's face to loudly complain about something. He saw nothing of that in Greenwich. They had worked very hard all year and found the fund raising, especially, to be very challenging. He said that 40 hours per week was just the beginning. He thought the play was just beautiful. That is the moment he could say that this is why they do this. It would not be right to take away the freedoms of speech and expression of the artistic people. SOS ran excellent educational programs and to jeopardize all of that would be too bad.

John Igneri commented that he had many more e-mails about the fence when it first went up. But the e-mails he got about the truck and concrete pipes in the park were much more emotional and indicated more stress on the part of the originators of them. He said he had heard of some instances of disrespect and would like to talk with SOS about specific instances.

Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road, said that she takes her dogs into Pinkney Park every day and that Emily and Rocco see that every bit of trash is picked up from the park. They don't have to do that in Greenwich.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Ten

John Igneri said that from his standpoint, Emily Bryan had always been totally responsive and cooperative.

Richard Alexander, President of the SOS Board, said that for complete balance, he would like to hear from the local businesses on this issue.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis thanked everyone for their concerns and opinions. She would like to hear from anyone who thinks of anything further they would like to say. She said that Pinkney Park belongs to the Sixth Taxing District, but we're not making the creative decisions. But, she said that the Commissioners have to respond to the residents who are so upset about the set, etc. The Commissioners take on this position because they love this community. We have to answer to our residents. Before Joanna Settle was the artistic director, they have already had to respond to many issues, including parking, etc. There have been many evolutions with this.

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that when SOS had its 10th anniversary, there was a lot of dissension then. We were considering calling a special meeting. Cherie Burton was the Managing Director then and came up with a system of block captains. Everything really got better with this added communication with the residents. There are a lot of opinions on both sides now. He would challenge Joanna to come up with something that would be palatable to everyone. Mike suggested that SOS should bring a model of the set that they would be proposing for next year. At least, that is one option that the Commissioners are talking about. He realized that the time line for the decision on the design would have to be different. However, if the Commissioners had seen what was envisioned for this year, he felt that they would have said it was too extreme.

Cherie Burton, 21 Indian Spring, former SOS Managing Director said that there was a great hue and cry when they decided to go to Greenwich for part of their time. But, she said, SOS had become a victim of its own success. We hope that hasn't happened here, now. It's such a shame that people resign because they can't take it anymore. We don't want that to happen again. There are significant challenges before the board but it's a good and responsible board. She hopes that they and the Commissioners will be able to have a dialog in the spring.

Rob Frazier, 158 Highland Avenue, agreed that what we need is dialog. He noted that nothing is being decided tonight. No one wants to impair the creative process, but there is a need for more information. The dialog that he has heard makes him confident that a solution can be found. The community is reminded of things that they love about Shakespeare. We all know that it has been a great value to the community and to the children.

MINUTES – July 13 2011
Page Eleven

John Igneri said that we need to keep the conversation flowing.

Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road, said that when you bring so many people into one place, you're going to have a problem.

Mrs. Langalis thanked everyone who had come to participate in the SOS discussion and said we would be moving on to the other items on the agenda.

Information on the Rowayton Avenue proposed construction project was the next item on the Agenda. Mrs. Langalis had said that the Commissioners had met with the DPW at the train station. They also had a conversation with an engineer for the project. The sense that they got was that, while the City may make some small modifications to the project, the larger plan is already in place. Issues include the drainage, sidewalks, height of the bridge and lowering of the road. She feels that not much change is going to be possible. The Sixth Taxing District asked if the sight lines could be improved. The City receives funds from the State and, therefore, has to follow state guidelines. The Commissioners feel that they can get some improvements over the plan with regard to parking at the railroad station. Unfortunately, they can't do much with the concerns held by the residents in that area. The Common Council passed the resolution to proceed with this project. The Commissioners will continue to be in touch with the DPW even though it is not in the District's domain except as to how it relates to the RR station.

Karen Brown, 373 Rowayton Avenue, spoke of her concern over the noise generated by the continued work on the RR bridge. She said that it has become even more excessive in the last several weeks. The noise goes on from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. They must have hit harder rocks, she said, since the noise and vibration is so much more extensive. They have even felt the vibration in her home. She has e-mailed Mayor Moccia and Senator Duff about this issue. She was wondering if there was any way to mitigate some of the effects of the noise. If they worked from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, perhaps, it might be better. As it is, the neighbors are very much impacted and it is difficult to get any sleep, and the effect of it on trying to get children to sleep is even more difficult. She asked the Commissioners who she needed to talk with about this. Mr. Alvord of the DPW would be one source. Also Pat Proto and/or Craig Bordiere would be other contacts. Jack Robson gave Ms. Brown the contact info for Pat Proto. Mrs. Langalis said that if they could start earlier and finish earlier, that would be ideal. Mike Barbis said it has been a dragged out project but the end is now near.

Dave McCarthy, 38 Nearwater Road, asked what the concerns about this project are, other than the noise. He said that there is a lot of misinformation out there, with some people saying that truck traffic on that road is going to increase. He feels

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Twelve

that the affected length, grade lowering for 700 or so feet, and other minor changes, were unlikely to result in an increase in truck traffic or speed because the distance is so short and the fact remains that the road terminates into Route 136 upon which through truck traffic is banned (The Commissioners had said that Councilman Conroy told them that the lowering of the grade would only be for 400 ft.). This confirms the belief that there is misinformation out there. Mrs. Langalis said that the initial concern for the district was that the station would lose parking spaces but that they are working to address this issue. They are also concerned that the end result will make that section of Rowayton Avenue feel more like a thoroughfare. There's going to be a more open feel after a number of trees are taken down and the Commissioners feel that, instead of making that area a thoroughfare, they should make more sidewalks and not widen the road. It's going to feel very open after a number of trees are taken down and the Commissioners feel that that is not in keeping with a residential area. However, the city officials they have met with are not at all responsive or in agreement with that idea. The statistic that 1/3 of pedestrian deaths occur near RR stations was cited. The work envisioned will affect 400 feet although the city has also mentioned 700 feet. Mr. Igneri said that there are many different versions of the plans being talked about which seems to have caused confusion. The Commissioners have not been informed of what the actual details of the project are. The District would hope that various traffic calming measures be taken, such as putting in sidewalks, not widening the street, and leaving trees that are on City property that the City now proposes to remove.

John Verel, 6th District Treasurer, who lives in the area, said that cars coming from the north are already traveling too fast because of the pitch down of the roadway as you approach the bridge. Cars now regularly run the stop sign at Belmont Place. With the proposed work, this will be even more of a problem. He thinks that if the road is not widened and that other traffic calming measures are taken, speeding and other problems will be mitigated. Mrs. Langalis thinks the whole project will create an eyesore and that the railroad station is going to be very, very exposed, a concern also voiced by Mr. Barbis.

Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road, asked where the money was coming from and noted that it's taken 11 years to get where we are now. Tammy said that she had gone to a meeting in 2000 about this and feels that the scope of the project is too large for the site.

Mike Barbis noted that the dog park has been out of doggy scooper bags for a long time. These are historically supplied by the users of the park. However, lately they have had more trouble fund raising for the bags. A new shipment of bags has been ordered, though, and should be there soon.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Thirteen

REPORTS

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that the RCA had given a number of Adirondack chairs to the beach some years ago. We need to look at whether more or needed or the present ones need repairs.

Mike said that the big test of the beach capacity came last weekend with an RCA concert at Bayley. The park was full. The traffic was handled well. The RCA has hired someone to help facilitate all issues on days of concerts. There was a small accident at Bayley Beach when someone driving a car was in drive instead of reverse and, fortunately, hit a tree after destroying a bike rack. This had the potential for being much more serious. The District has built 24 kayak racks and we have had a lottery to determine who gets them. We will be charging \$150 for the rest of the season for rental of a rack. If the demand increases, the District

will consider building additional racks.

Mike spoke about parking statistics at the train station. He said that over 127 business days recently surveyed, there were 10 days with not one empty parking space, 14 days with just one available and 10 days with just two available spaces.

During the summer months, there is less demand at the parking lot. Fall is the month with the heaviest use. He asked if we need to restripe the lot or redesign the lot to, hopefully, come up with a few more spaces.

Regarding the Long Range Planning Committee and the plans for the Community Center, Mike reported that we are more than halfway done with Phase 1 and we're under budget. We changed the scope of the work in Phase I to include more of the out buildings instead of having those in Phase II. We are in discussion of Phase II now and will probably have a Special Meeting in the fall to approve the plans for Phase II and to go ahead with the state grant application again.

Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road, said she believed that we were going to lose as many as ten parking spaces at the RR Station. Mike said that we need to determine how badly we need new spaces. The question might be that we need to have a community conversation about the parking lot. We are looking into that need.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis thanked the RCA for the wonderful fireworks display on July 2. She said that she had heard only positive things.

Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer John Verel reported that we closed out the fiscal year \$2,042 ahead of budget. The operating fund was increased by \$20,000. We are expecting to receive \$400,000 soon from what we borrowed for Phase I

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Fourteen

of the restoration of the Community Center. We are looking into strategies for financing Phase II. We plan to again apply for a state grant for the maximum allowed of \$200,000. The state requires that we do the work before they will give us the granted funds.

Our biggest variance on the budget comes from the savings we realized in tipping fees, which is the amount we pay the city to dispose of our trash. More and more people are recycling, which is a good thing. Those saved tipping fees go straight to the bottom line. Tammy, especially, has been making recycle bins available for purchase at various community events.

(See attached reports for more financial detail)

Clerk's Report

District Clerk Andrea Woodworth gave the following report:

1. I have had a request for the waiver of the gate entrance fee at Bayley Beach for a resident who will be bringing some young potential recruits for military special forces to engage in open water swim training. They will be doing this on Friday nights off Bayley Beach.
2. House Hunters' International had a very quick filming session at Bayley Beach one recent afternoon. They were filming a Rowayton family who will be moving to Spain soon and documenting their last visits to favorite places.
3. I have processed 1023 Bayley Beach permit applications, so far.
4. The June 18th RR parking permit renewals went smoothly. During the following week, I was able to clear all but 10 people from the beginning wait list of 92 people. The remaining wait listed people have only been on the list since mid-June or later. There are now 28 people on the Wait List. I get several requests for Wait Listing each week.
5. There are a number of planned Pavilion parties at Bayley Beach in the near future.

Report of the Fire Marshal

Ed Carlson

June 2011

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	4	4
Clerical (office) work		22

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Fifteen

Fire Marshal Conferences	1	1
Career Development Training	2	6
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings: District monthly	1	2
Construction	1	1
FCFMA	1	2
(Other)		
Underground tank removal inspection	1	1
<hr/>		Total Man Hrs. 40

Remarks to the Commissioners:

All summer camps inspected.

Report of the Property Manager

Ed Carlson

July 2011

Community Center

1. I would like to post signs in the main and third floors reminding people to turn off lights when leaving.
2. Privets donated by Phyllis Padro were planted to fill in spots
3. Joe Warren has ordered dog scoops.

Bayley Beach

1. Picnic table repaired and placed at beach
2. Estimate to replace damaged bike rack is \$530 + shipping.

Pinkney Park

1. Telescoping sprinklers and hose purchased to aid in watering of repaired lawn areas.
2. Power Squadron donated bench installed in rear of house.

Report of Community Policing Officer

In the absence of Mike Silva, Joe Jensen reported that the sign for Pinkney Park which noted the closing time of the park has been a help in getting people to leave the park.

Commissioner John Igneri said that most of the mail boxes on Wilson Avenue from the Wilson Avenue Yacht Club to Bluff Avenue and down Bluff Avenue were vandalized last Thursday evening.

RR Guards

Dick Schock reported that they had recovered a \$1500 laptop and had been in touch

MINUTES – July 13, 2011

Page Sixteen

with the owner. He also said that a young lady returning on the train and parked toward the end of the lot had been harassed after the guards had gone off duty. Dick has discussed the issue with Joe Jensen. Dick also informed the Commission that he has had collections of \$1,000+ in parking fees most weeks. Dick will be remarking the parking lines shortly. He is borrowing a handicapped parking space stencil to clearly mark the handicapped spaces.

District Administrator

Jack Robson

Bayley Beach

The “grease trap” has been installed and inspected. We are up to code now and conform to the requirements of the Department of Health. A service maintenance program for cleaning and disposing of the grease buildup is required. Joe Gallo will be responsible for this.

Community Center

The District Office had a new floor installed. Cost **\$1,688.78**.

The Blitz NFL Arcade game has been fixed by a Stamford Company. Cost **\$240.00**

Rowayton Elementary School has been given the additional filing cabinets that were in the Power Squadron Room and the upstairs open area. The library retained two items. All others items will be taken to the dump and disposed of.

The two proposed Rockford Pole Lights that we would like to install at the Community Center have been approved by P&Z. There was no fee charged for this. A permit from the building department is needed. A fee may be charged for this permit. Cost to install the two lights is approximately **\$3,600.00**.

The air conditioning units at the CC are starting to break down. They now have been in use for about 15 years and are in need of replacement. Celco Heating and Air Conditioning have been called to do a repair on the upstairs unit which froze early this week. That work is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Encon Heating and Air Conditioning gave us the following evaluation:

To replace the top floor Evaporator Drain Pan and Overflow pan: **Cost \$2,400.00**

To replace the entire 2.5 ton split system. **Cost \$7,242.00**

To install central A/C for the upstairs apartment. **Cost \$14,242.00.**

Celco Air Conditioning gave the following evaluation:

They do not recommend replacing the evaporator pan.

Their fee for replacing the 2 ½ ton unit is **\$6,560.00**

The difference would be **\$682.00** saving using Celco.

MINUTES – July 13, 2011
Page Seventeen

Ambler Parking Lot Light

P&Z approved the installation of one Rockford Pole light on the existing wired pedestal. Cost to install **\$475.00**. **Approved to be done at the same time as the installation of the lights in the Community Center lot.**

Rowayton RR Parking Lot

New handicap parking signs that are state approved have been ordered for the RR parking lot. Cost will be **\$62.00** each. Total cost **\$248.00**. We will try to reuse the existing posts.

Stones from the RR Bridge and other local projects are limited. Most have been spoken for. Their use is controlled by the state and the DPW. We are evaluating what is available to see if it is practical for us to remove them and place them on district property. Exact locations for these stones, at each property, need to be

decided on. DPW has offered us the four they had marked for themselves. We could draw on about 12 more stones to be distributed between Farm Creek, Bayley Beach and the dog park. **This is a matter of what it will cost and do we want to do it for that cost.**

Pinkney Park

ADT alarm proposal: Last March ADT sent us a proposal to change out the sensor alarm system and replace it with a “Glass Break” system. ADT’s installation supervisor offered to replace the system for cost of parts only. He would not charge us for labor. The labor charge if it were applied amounts to 70% of the fee. Our cost would be **\$1,136.00**. ADT’s thinking is that our problem stems from rodents and heat/air movement.

ADT cautions that all windows and doors be secure and tight for the system to function properly. All windows would be glazed. This is an opportunity to correct the ongoing problem of false alarms provided there are funds available.

Doug Leone is the ADT rep. 203-741-4114.

Al Schuckie is the installation supervisor. 203-741-4165.

Repairs on the damaged lawn will begin Monday, July 18, 2011.

Commissioner John Igneri asked if OCON was treating for the rodent problem.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis made a motion to cancel the August meeting and schedule the September meeting for September 14. John Igneri seconded the motion which passed making the next meeting to be on September 14.

MINUTES - July 13, 2011
Page Eighteen

Rob Frazier asked if we need to have on the agenda for that meeting a resolution regarding financing for Phase II of the restoration of the Community Center. There will probably need to be a Special Meeting as well.

Mike Barbis made a motion that the July meeting be adjourned. John Igneri seconded the motion and the July 13, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Andrea Woodworth
Clerk, 6th Taxing District