

**MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
May 13, 2009**

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

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

Commissioner Ed Kweskin called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. As the first order of business, Mr. Kweskin recognized Joe Carter who was there representing the RCA to discuss the schedule of the planned concerts and to address certain issues pertaining to them. Mr. Barbis explained a little of the background for the concern that the Commissioners have had regarding these concerts, particularly at Bayley Beach. There were a few problems last year with crowd control and parking due to the great popularity of some of the groups giving the concerts. The RCA has made some more detailed plans for crowd control this year and the residents of Pine Point Association, in particular, are pleased with those plans. Mr. Carter went on to say that 3 of the planned nine concerts may produce larger than average crowds. However, the reggae group that drew the most concert goers last year are not booked for this year. For those three potentially very popular concerts, the RCA will have "No Parking" signs posted on the surrounding roads where appropriate. There will be a policeman employed and members of the RCA will act as traffic volunteers. Most of the problem occurs when the beach parking lot fills up, so the RCA volunteers will work with beach personnel and will help direct the parking and the turning away of cars where necessary. Mr. Carter stated that the RCA does not advertise these concerts outside of Rowayton. They cannot, however, control how the bands promote themselves. Mr. Carlson noted that, in the past, the volunteers weren't available at the peak times. He noted that Sue can't monitor the gate and direct the parking as well. He thinks that a lot of the overflow comes because cars are not properly parked to take advantage of all the space available in the lot. Mrs. Langalis asked how many cars can be parked in the beach lot. The answer from Mr. Barbis was 225 - 250 cars. The volunteers need to be aware of the parking capabilities and to be sure to communicate with the policeman when the lot has filled. Mr. Barbis volunteered the

information that the Pine Point Association will assist in distributing the "No Parking" signs if they are given to Leah Hogan prior to the event. He sees a need for at least two parking volunteers from the RCA. Mr. Carter assured the Commission that the RCA will have the proper number of volunteers. When asked, Mr. Carter read a list of the concerts scheduled and noted that the RCA was very appreciative of the use of the District property for these community events. He also assured the Commission that similar parking and crowd control procedures would be followed at the Pinkney Park concerts. The Commission thanked Mr. Carter for attending the meeting and for detailing the RCA plans for these very popular events. Mr. Kweskin thanked Mr. Carter for attending the meeting and addressing the concerns of the Commissioners and many residents.

Continuing with the meeting agenda, Mr. Barbis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Langalis, to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting as submitted.

Mr. Barbis made a motion, which was also seconded by Mrs. Langalis, to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2009 Public Hearing to Affirm the Revised Beach Rules. The Minutes of this meeting were approved as submitted.

Communications and Report of the District Clerk

May 13, 2009

1. Through a grant from Wal-Mart, the Library will be hanging copies of paintings along the wall of the Moose Room. These are flame-retardant and will hang from the ceiling tile supports. There will be a different artist featured for each of the weeks that they are up. Cynthia has offered to take them down when the room is rented or at other times when their presence would be inappropriate. I believe she and Ed Carlson have already spoken about this. (Cynthia Johnson elaborated on the project saying that this is being done in conjunction with the Rowayton Arts Center and part of the summer reading program theme of "Being Creative").
2. Ed Carlson and I composed a letter to Lt. Gale at the Norwalk Police Department regarding appropriate dispatching protocols that have been agreed upon in the past. I sent this out via e-mail to all of you. If you have no additions or corrections to the letter, I have it available for the signature of the Commissioners. **APPROVED.**
3. I have been playing telephone tag with a teacher from the New Canaan High School who is a colleague of Barbara Wright. They would like to hold an end of year celebration at Bayley Beach for their faculty. I have tentatively put them on the calendar for June 11, a Thursday. They would propose to set up a buffet on the Pavilion and if the diners exceeded the table space there, the rest would sit at the beach tables to eat and socialize. I made it very clear that 45 is the maximum number

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Three

of people allowed on the Pavilion at any one time. She is unsure about the numbers, but said it could be anywhere from 40 - 100 people, although the 100 (or anything even close) was unlikely. She also offered to monitor throughout the party the number of people on the Pavilion. The event would be catered. Most of them will be driving cars that are out of district. I told her in a voice mail today that the cars would be charged the parking fee and encouraged car pooling. I suggested that we might work with them a bit on the price, if they pre-paid the parking fees. What's your feeling on this? **APPROVED.**

4. A woman has called me about an incident with her car when she was entering Bayley Beach a couple of weekends ago. She said she was going very slowly and was negotiating the speed bump well when her right front tire went into a hole. Because of this, the exhaust system of her car was scraped and needed to be replaced for about \$1,000. I spoke with Ed Carlson about it and he said there was, indeed, a hole there and it would be filled with shells temporarily until it could be filled with asphalt. The woman would like to know if someone will pay her repair bill. **The Commissioners DID NOT APPROVE any payment of the claim. The existence of the hole had not been brought to the attention of anyone so the District had not had an opportunity to correct the problem.**
5. The Drama Club from Brien McMahon High School will be holding a cast party at Bayley Beach on May 22 from approximately 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. I have their paper work and check for the deposit in hand. Since this is an annual event and the beach is not formally opened, I gave them the go-ahead. Also, the Brien McMahon faculty would like to have their end of the year party at Bayley Beach, as they have done for several years. **APPROVED.**
6. I have processed 327 beach permit applications, 34 of which were walk-ins last Saturday morning. There haven't been too many problems encountered as of yet. (Mrs. Langalis said that she had had a compliment from a citizen saying that the walk-in permit application process was a very pleasant experience and wished to express her thanks).
7. I had a question from a resident who asked if the Bayley Beach permit could be used as proof of residency for purposes of using the transfer station. **Mr. Barbis said that the answer is "No" since the requirements for a beach sticker in Norwalk is different from the requirements that we have for Bayley Beach.**

REPORTS - Commissioners

Commissioner Tammy Langalis reported that she had a request from a resident which reinforced a concern she had as she has witnessed the increased speeding of traffic through the downtown area. She asked Officer Joe Jensen if he could make his presence known to help enforce the speed limits through town. She also is concerned about

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Four

the potential speeding problems that we have had in the past on Roton Avenue approaching Bayley Beach and Wee Burn and Roton Point Clubs. She would like to see some speed enforcement efforts as a reminder by mid June before the season is well under way.

Mrs. Langalis also reported that she and Jack Robson had attended a meeting hosted by the DPW regarding the train bridge and the underpass. She said that the underpass is to be repaved and graded in 2011. She would like the Commissioners to send a letter encouraging the DOT to get the project to lower the grade of the street as soon as possible, since it is an eyesore and it has been going on for too long. The Commissioners were in favor of sending such a letter and it was noted that it should be directed to Mr. Proto, the assistant resident engineer, at DOT. Mr. Conroy noted that in the Common Council meeting last night, the Council members accepted the project as designed and scheduled. The splash guards, which they say they will not do, were a part of the original project which was approved, but now the state does not want to pay for it. Tammy and Andrea will compose the letter.

Regarding the Library lease, when the library was under renovation a search for the original lease could not be found. A new 12 year lease was created. The original lease has since been found and Megan St John, former president of the Library Board, would like us to honor the old lease. The Commissioners would like to go with the new lease but honor the 99 year term of the old lease. The old lease acknowledges that the Library gave the 6th Taxing District the Arts Center building (which previously housed the library) in exchange for its space here at the Community Center. We will acknowledge this event in the new lease. There was some mention in the new lease about the library being responsible for shoveling the walkway, but that will be taken out of the lease as Property Manager Ed Carlson sees that all the walkways are shoveled. The 6th District will still honor the \$1/year lease. There shouldn't be any contention from other groups that pay more as the Library provides great service to the Community. We really need to get this lease signed and finish with this business. Mrs. Langalis is sure that both parties can be satisfied with this new lease. Cynthia thanked Mrs. Langalis for all of her work on this. The Library Board likes the wording of the old lease better and the Commissioners like the wording of the new lease better. Mr. Kweskin suggested that he, Mrs. Langalis and a Library Board representative sit down and hammer out the wording.

Mrs. Langalis reported that we have finalized a lease with the Rowayton Historical Society regarding Pinkney House. It's a 5 year lease. If the Commissioners will sign off on the lease, Wendell Livingston will as well. There was some wording that we changed item #3 concerning the expectation that regularly scheduled hours and/or events would occur. If more than four consecutive weeks go by without either hours for the museum or events scheduled, the terms of the lease would terminate. The RHS would store their artifacts and archives in the Pinkney House, as opposed to just museum

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Five

items. Another issue was what to do regarding parties. It basically comes down to this: we have to let them know and they have to let us know when either party wants to schedule an event at Pinkney. The District would rent or scheduled events on the grounds only and they would be consistent with the zoning. Parking cannot be in the park. We don't know yet what the cost structure of these things will be. There was an understanding, not stated, that the museum would maintain a number of public hours, yet to be determined. **The terms of the lease are approved by the Commissioners.**

Mike Barbis noted that long-time Rowayton resident, Shelley Trubowitz, has passed away. His family would like to have a memorial service for him at Bayley Beach. Since they feel that the numbers attending would exceed the capacity of the pavilion, they would like to put up a 20' x 40' tent on the pavilion side of the beach for a service and reception on June 13 at 3 p.m.. Also, in his memory, they would like to have the buoy race named for him, a frequenter of Bayley Beach both as a swimmer and a tennis player. They would also like to donate money collected as memorials to do some landscaping at the south end of the tennis courts and to maybe put up a plaque there. **The Commissioners have agreed to this.**

The long term issue of drainage at the Little League field has come up again. An engineer from Wilton has been hired. We are waiting for an estimate. Mr. Barbis also met with another company today that would clean out the whole drainage system around the field. An estimate will be forthcoming. We are attacking this problem. We were approached by someone needing to do some community service. We hope that the shells that have accumulated from beach cleanings can be moved to some more advantageous positions. All of the shells, charcoal, etc. has been cleaned out of the drainage ditch.

There is also ongoing interest in having kayak racks put up at Bayley Beach. That will be Mike's next project after the drainage issue gets resolved.

Don Wilson should be back as Beach Director by May 17.

Mike has a proposal from Joe Jensen for providing patrol services on 22 key nights this summer from 9 - 12. If there is a rain day, he would add a different day to the schedule, or would otherwise pro rate his fee.

This Saturday is the Rowayton Merchant's Fair (Shop Rowayton) from 10 - 2.

Mike stated that he knew a couple of Rowayton Gardeners were here tonight to talk about the greenhouse. It is currently used for storage. Mike was approached by a couple of residents to possibly use a small portion of the greenhouse. They represent a national organization called "Plant a Row for the Hungry" and plan to plant a small vegetable garden adjacent to the greenhouse. They provided some labor to help clean out a small

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Six

portion of the greenhouse to house their equipment. This is not a community-wide group or garden. The greenhouse will only be used as a small storage area for this group. Right now we have several large light fixtures stored in the greenhouse. The Christmas pageant committee also stores a lot of things there. Phyllis Padro of Rowayton Gardeners stated that the Gardeners work on the Community Center grounds every Tuesday and Friday, providing free labor for the beautification of the grounds. She said that if other organizations are going to be given access to the greenhouse, the Gardeners would also like to have access for storage of equipment. Ideally, the Gardeners would like to be able to use it over the late winter and early spring for propagation. Mike pointed out that it is not the intent of the Commission to deny anyone's use of the greenhouse. The garden plot is just an experiment now. There really isn't any usable space there until the other things that are in storage have found a new home. Regarding the garden carts that the Gardeners use, Ed Carlson said that they got rid of one of them since it was falling apart but they saved the wheels. There is still one other cart available. Mr. Kweskin stated that he was sorry about the way that this was done and the intention was never to cut the Gardeners out of use of the greenhouse. The Commission is very appreciative of all the Gardeners do for the District. As soon as some of the storage space is freed up, the Gardeners are more than welcome to use it. Ms. Padro indicated that it would be nice to have a hose stand and cart. Mr. Carlson mentioned that he is asked by many organizations to store things and he is running out of space. He is doing the best that he can to accommodate as many organizations as possible.

The Commission was contacted by the Conservation Committee of the City of Norwalk about a joint venture with the Norwalk River Watershed Association to improve water quality. The Canada geese are a big problem for the efforts to improve that quality. They want to have a humane way to control the goose problem. They're looking for goose nests and are oiling the eggs in order to prevent their hatching. We have a big problem with the geese at Pinkney Park. The Conservation Committee and the Norwalk River Watershed Association asked for permission to come on our property to oil the goose eggs. The Commission has given their permission Ms. Padro indicated that the geese need a clean area to land. If you let long grasses grow, the geese won't land there and the grass will filter the water. However, the geese land above the sea wall where there are no long grasses and are, therefore, not hindered there.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Andy Conroy

(See attached report)

Mr. Conroy has a slight concern with the tax receipts which are coming in kind of slowly. He doesn't foresee a huge problem, but Andy doesn't expect it to be too dramatic. Won't really know how serious the problem may be until the quarter is over.

Getting back to the Railroad project addressed in Mrs. Langalis' report, Mr. Conroy is concerned that the state is trying to back out of what had already been agreed. That is that the city specifically asked that a splash guard be installed. They also were hoping for

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Seven

an extra tall curb which would help serve as a splash guard. In the past the Commissioners had asked that the cycling problem coming out of the station be solved. In order to do that, the roadway would have to be widened considerably. The state wants to avoid public meetings on the subject and doesn't want to have to do what they already agreed to do.

Mr. Kweskin asked that we go back to Officer Joe Jensen's proposal since we didn't have a formal vote on it. Before voting, Mr. Kweskin also asked Joe to make special note of when there would be kid parties at the beach and to take special care that they didn't get out of hand. So far, the only event of that kind is on May 22. A formal vote to approve Joe Jensen's summer patrol scheduled was passed unanimously.

PROPERTY MANAGER - Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. The lights on the third floor now operate with wall switches (as opposed to being turned on at the breaker panel).
2. One estimate received to replace the district rack truck. Two other dealers were contacted. One replied, but the truck was too large.
3. I have spoken with Gail Jaques about the dog owners sharing the cost of the fence for the dog field. I am still awaiting her reply.

(Ed Kweskin asked if SOS would like to store their fence here over the off-season - outdoors - to be used for a dog barrier. Ed Carlson will look into it).

Bayley Beach:

1. The Adirondack chairs are incurring damage over the winter being stored on the Pavilion. A new location will be found for the coming season.
2. A new sign for the entrance was made and installed.
3. A new sign is being made for the significant beach rules which will be posted near the handicapped enclosure.
4. The repairs to the toilets have been completed.
5. Two picnic tables were relocated to make room for the barbecue enclosure.

(Mrs. Langalis asked that Don Wilson inform the staff of the new rules and the need to enforce them).

Pinkney Park:

1. The new seeding of the lawn areas is being monitored for proper watering.

(Mike Barbis said that they had been working with SOS regarding a permanent power source at Pinkney Park. It turned out to be a huge project. We are not going to be able to have something installed before SOS this season. We'll try to do it later. We anticipated that it would cost \$5,000. SOS was going to pay for it in May and we were going to pay them back after July 1. However, the project turned out to be estimated to cost \$7,000,

MINUTES - May 13, 2009
Page Eight

besides being unsightly. SOS decided not to go through with it).

FIRE MARSHAL - Ed Carlson - April 2009

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u># times</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	2	3
Clerical (office) work		18
Fire Marshal Conferences	2	7
Career Development Training	***	***
Investigation(s) House Fire	***	***
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2
New construction	1	1
(Other)		
(Other)		
(Other)		
		Total Man Hrs: 31

Expenses:

Remarks to the Commissioners: I attended the CFMA Conference on 4/23 in Cromwell. Very informative day.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Carlson

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR - Jack Robson

Pinkney Park:

Last month our landscaper brought in top soil and re-graded areas that were in need of leveling. We re-seeded the lawn area that was left incomplete from last fall, and applied fertilizer. The weather has not been kind to us and our efforts have not produced what was expected. The landscaper has returned to grade, fertilize and re-seed once more. He feels this time we should be ready for opening up the grounds and removing the barriers as the grass should grow more rapidly, now that the heavy downpours seem to have ceased. I plan on removing the barriers at the end of the day on Thursday, May 21, 2009. (Jack doesn't know what is the answer to the geese problem. Mr. Griffith, a resident in attendance, suggested using monofilament fishing line to string along the top of the wall. He thinks that would keep them from coming back. Jack will look into this. Should there be signage to keep people out of the area?

Cost: \$2,840.00

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Nine

Plumbing repairs:

All of the major plumbing repairs have been made to the kitchen and related connecting areas. Hot and cold running water is now accessible. A new toilet has been installed in the upstairs bathroom.

Cost: \$1,600.00

Geese Invasion:

The geese still persist on occupying the lawn along with their newborn, which appears to have doubled the population. The proposed barrier is still to be tested. I would like to see this installed sooner, rather than later!

Cost to install: \$1,350.00

Bayley Beach:

The Pavilion has been power washed. There are some areas that need re-painting due to premature peeling. I have contacted the former painter to see if he can correct these problems. In speaking with the painter, he pointed out that the peeling paint was due to it being applied when it was a bit too cold last May, 2008. The painter is returning to repaint as needed and offered to re-paint the entire floor instead of just painting a few sections that showed peeling. We buy the paint.

Some of the picnic tables need to be sanded and re-stained. Last year, the lifeguards were given this job, but it was not executed correctly. We will try to improve on this before opening day, or after, as time allows.

Grill Enclosure:

The Grill Enclosure has been staked out at the south west end of the beach picnic table area. All of the old grill installations have been removed from their former location. Work was scheduled to start over a week ago, but rain delayed the process. The fencing contractor will start the installation on Wednesday May 13, at 9:30 a.m. It will take two days to complete. Once the "enclosure" is in place we can install the 8 grill posts within the enclosure. Everything should be in place for Memorial Day weekend.

Cost to install enclosure: \$2,400.00

Cost to remove and install grill posts: \$1,625.00

Total expense: \$4,025.00

Seagate:

The Seagate that controls the flow of water from the Bayley Beach ditch next to the ball park has been repaired. Water should flow freely (or as freely as possible) from the ditch into Farm Creek, with this new repair. However, one more issue still confronts us. The drainage pipes and catch basin around the ball park need to be cleaned to help insure proper flow of the runoff water. I approached Hal Alvord, who is the director for DPW and asked his help. Ordinarily, he would have obliged and come to our rescue.

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Ten

Unfortunately, he is understaffed and underfunded and had to decline. He has recommended the same company that we have contacted to give us an appraisal and cost. The company is McVac out of New Haven. The city just went through a lengthy project with them. We met this afternoon and discussed the project and other possible directions to take. Estimates will be sent to us covering the initial request and additional estimates for what we hope will be improvements to the condition of the ditch. I need to speak with Alexis, our conservation director, to see if some of these thoughts would be acceptable.

Estimate for drainage clean up to follow:

Pot holes:

Pot holes in the parking lot have been filled using the shells that were stockpiled near the playground. The rest of the shells are being spread elsewhere in an attempt to clean up the area.

Ambler Parking Lot;

Fertilizer was applied to the grass strip along the wet lands side of the parking lot. The newly seeded area is well established and healthy. With periodic service, it will be easy to maintain. The grounds behind the grass strip should have a new layer of shredded mulch, to keep the weeds down and to ensure that moisture remains in the soil around the plants and trees.

The sprinkler system will be turned on this Wednesday, May 13, 2009. It will run every third day for a littler longer than normal. The following three days it will be allowed to dry out, and then the process will begin again. This method will reduce the cost of water usage for this coming summer. We lost a pine tree over the winter. It has been removed and from what I can determine, we don't really need to replace it as the present area is well covered.

Community Center:

Lights:

The two proposed lights for the driveway area around the main building are still in question. We have located all the parts that were in storage, except the L-bolts. They are used to secure the light posts to the concrete base. I have contacted the manufacturer and sales company that sold them to us. I am waiting for a reply.

In addition I have asked the Holphane Lighting Company to supply us with a digital copy of the specs for these lights so we can present the lights for sale on the internet, should we decide not to install them. Original cost for a single light pole was approximately \$3000.00

The one light slated for the Ambler Parking Lot can go up at any time, once we get final

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Eleven

approval from Planning and Zoning. I have letters of approval from Grumman Engineering and Officer Joe Jensen, recommending the installation.

Moose Room:

It will be 2-3 weeks before the new windows arrive. They will be installed and painted at that time.

Surveys:

We have had three estimates prepared, for executing surveys of the Community Center property.

Arcamone Land Surveyors: \$6,000.00

Ryan and Faulds Land Surveyors, \$8,750.00

William W. Seymour & Associates Land Surveyors: \$10,500.00

Rob Frazier, chairman of the Planning Committee, requested a few additional items for the survey estimate. Decisions on following through are still pending.

At this time, Mr. Kweskin called for any other Old Business with no response. He then asked for any other New Business and Mr. Robert Griffiths of 19 Crooked Trail, introduced himself to the Commission saying that he has been a shell fisherman for close to 20 years out of the Five Mile River. He uses the Rowayton Community Dock to land his shell fish. All along the coast of Connecticut, there is limited waterfront access and we are lucky to have a place here where fishermen like himself have a place to unload their product. Glazer Construction is going to be building some condos next door to the dock. Last year Andy Glazer approached Mr. Griffiths and asked his opinion about some reworking of the dock so that it wouldn't have to be removed on an annual basis. The deed says that it has to be removed on an annual basis. Mr. Griffiths has been trying to do some general cleaning up of the area and trying to make sure other fishermen use the facility properly. He's been acting as a sort of liaison with Parks & Rec. Since Mr. Lindeblad died, there have been various people who have been in charge of filling out boat lists, etc. He said that he has basically been maintaining the dock and keeping the operation going. He said that he went to the city last year and asked them to consider repointing the sea wall. They said "yes" but nothing has happened. Water has gotten into the sea wall and frozen over the winter with the negative effects that causes. At the present time, the sea wall is in danger of collapsing. When Mr. Griffiths went to Parks and Rec a month ago, Mr. Mulcahy said that there was no money in the budget to fix the sea wall. Mr. Griffiths showed the City the deed and they seemed to be unaware that they owned it. They are supposed to properly maintain the property. Andy Glazer said that he is going to fix the sea wall in lieu of building an affordable housing unit. Mr. Griffiths is concerned that nobody is going to take care of the dock.

Mr. Kweskin noted that what Mr. Griffiths has been saying has a lot of validity, but the Rowayton Civic Association has the responsibility of monitoring the Community Dock

MINUTES - May 13, 2009

Page Twelve

and Mr. Griffiths needs to go to the RCA board first and get them to write a letter to the City concerning the dock. At that point, the Commission could write a letter in support of their position. Mike gave Mr. Griffiths the RCA web site.

Mr. Barbis also said that Wendell Anderson probably knows more about this than anyone else. Mike offered to e-mail him regarding this. When Wendell was on the RCA board, the RCA went to the City asking that the RCA be made responsible for monitoring it. The deed states that if the city gives it up, the dock goes back to the Hoyt family. Gerard Haleck, who is the land use guy on the board of the RCA, would know more about this than any of the other board members. The RCA has only an overseer role. Also, FYI, the Five Mile River Commission will meet on June 4.

In response to a call from Mr. Kweskin, Mike Barbis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tammy Langalis and approved. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Woodworth,
Clerk, 6th Taxing District