

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT  
City of Norwalk  
March 5, 2008**

The Annual Meeting of the Sixth Taxing District of the City of Norwalk was held at the Meeting House at the United Church of Rowayton on March 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. (E. S. T. ) Registered voters were checked in by Marilyn Deraney and Lynne Pratt.

Commissioner Ed Kweskin called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He introduced former Commissioner Peter Law; Commissioners Tammy Langalis and Mike Barbis; District Counsel, Frank Zullo; District Administrator Jack Robson,; Treasurer Andy Conroy and District Clerk Andrea Woodworth.

**Agenda Item #1.** Ed Kweskin called for a motion to appoint Peter Law as Moderator and Andrea Woodworth as Secretary for the meeting. This motion was made by John Cagnina and seconded by Joanne Schreiber. **Unanimously approved.**

**Agenda Item #2.** Mr. Kweskin made a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 7, 2007 and the Annual Budget Meeting of March 7, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mike Barbis. **Unanimously approved.**

**Agenda Item #3.** Mr. Kweskin presented the report of the Commissioners from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

**July 2006** – In this month we graded and installed curb lights at the Ambler property on Wilson Avenue. A Shakespeare on the Sound representative reported that they had been plagued with bad weather on some of the performance days which caused lower attendance. Unfortunately, on the good days, the performances were very heavily attended which caused some traffic problems. The Commissioners were asked to contact the police department to report that the police were not providing us with adequate traffic control assistance. SOS was using volunteers for this purpose, and that is really not satisfactory.

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**September 2006** – The Commissioners did contact Deputy Chief Palmer of the Norwalk PD who recognized that this was indeed a problem, as it has been after the annual fireworks display at Bayley Beach. (Mr. Kweskin interrupted himself to identify State Senator Bob Duff who had stopped by to say “Hello” but had several other commitments that evening and had to leave). Deputy Chief Palmer assured the Commissioners that we would be on a high priority list in the future to provide adequate traffic control for major events in the village. In fact, the police could not turn down requests for adequate traffic control because of the possibility of difficulty in response time in the event of an emergency. (However, in a digression to a more recent time, Mr. Kweskin reported that when he had later spoken to the Norwalk PD, he was told that Deputy Chief Palmer was no longer there and that nothing could be promised, since “that is not how it works”). In a continuance of the September report, Mr. Kweskin said that there had been some irrigation work done at the Ambler property and that the final asphaltting had been completed. We also had a Beach Report from Don Wilson, who is the Beach Manager, who reported that operations were similar to previous years, in that we had 5 Lifeguards and Don who worked a total of 360 hours. There were four gate guards who worked a total of 1030 hours. The report included the fact that the new playground had been built with the help of 47 volunteers and that the Rowayton Gardeners had created a natural garden barrier between the parking lot and the beach.

**October 2006** - A motion was made to sell the Ambler property with deed restrictions. Those deed restrictions were approved.

**November 2006** – We talked about trying to get some relief for the South Field at the Community Center by having dogs use Witch Park for a month or so just to give the land at South Field a chance to recover. However, we were told by the city that we could not do that. There are only so many parks designated for off-leash dogs and Witch Park is not one of them. We were unsuccessful in this effort. We had a discussion for the repairing of the Pinkney Park seawall about which you will hear more tonight. We were told that the repair could cost as much as \$450,000. Our Treasurer, Mr. Conroy, felt that the best solution for that was to sell the Ambler property and to use part of that money for the seawall and to bond the rest. We were told at that time that the wall is collapsing due to erosion and as the result of its own weight, but again you’ll hear more about that later tonight.

**December 2006** – At this month’s meeting we agreed that there would be no signage allowed at the cannon triangle since it is a war memorial and that would be inappropriate. The Historical Society made a presentation to the Commission in which they explained their plans to convert all of Pinkney House

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into a museum. They estimate the cost of this undertaking to be about \$200,000 of which they will ask for about one third from the District. The Ambler house was put on the market. Bob Pettus announced that he had completed his work and would retire, but would be available as needed. He retired after a lifetime of service to this community. Later in the fiscal year, Bob and Grace Liechtenstein were honored with our first Awards of Merit for their service to Rowayton. We had a major presentation from the Library about the needed upgrades and their funding needs.

**January 2007** – We announced the approval of a high bid on the Ambler property of \$675,000, subject to working out the final terms of the sale. Six months later the deal fell through with the proposed purchaser defaulting on the deal. We kept the 10% down payment, which we were entitled to do, since the loss of this sale affected the amount of money that we had anticipated spending on various projects which was now, effectively, not available.

**March 2007** - We had a Special Meeting to discuss the disposition of the money from the sale of Ambler and whether or not to fund the request from the Norwalk Land Trust which was \$250,000 to help buy the Hart property. We indicated at that time that if the \$125K was approved at our Annual Meeting in March that we would make a good faith pledge to fund another donation of \$125K at the Annual Meeting in 2008. The donation was approved at the Annual Meeting in March 2007 and there will, again, be a request for the second half of the pledge to be funded for this next Fiscal Year. The Connecticut Department of Transportation told us that the current first come/first served system we are using to grant railroad parking permits must be discontinued and that current permit holders will be grandfathered

**April 2007** - By April we acquiesced to the direction from the CT DOT to go to a grandfathered railroad parking permit system, with a waiting list, since we basically had no choice. Also, in April we had a report from Mr. Barbis about the issue of trying to obtain a ban on through trucks on Rte. 136.

**May 2007** – We had more issues about the seawall and about the landscaping and fencing at the railroad stations, more about street light replacements and more about the Ambler landscaping.

**June 2007** – In addition to learning that the purchaser of the Ambler property had defaulted, we attended to our usual business and we had the special Awards of Merit reception honoring Bob Pettus and Grace Liechtenstein.

Later that year, we said good-bye to Commissioner John Aldrich who provided great service to the community. And, then, later than that we also said good-bye to our

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then District Clerk, Barbara Dutton, who performed great service for our community for a number of years. Both of these Rowaytonites were invaluable to the Commission. Along with these people, our Treasurer Andy Conroy, our Property Administrator, our Property Manager Ed Carlson, Officer Joe Jensen and the many, many volunteers in this community made it a wonderful year.

In our budget meeting following this meeting, you are going to hear what we are proposing. However, one thing that we will not be proposing is any money toward a proposed pool. On April 2, there will be a special informational meeting at Roton M. S. and on April 23 there is to be a town vote on a proposed pool at Bayley Beach. The pool committee has promised that any pool would be privately funded and would be available to anyone on a cost basis. You will hear more about this. Our budget has no provision in it for any funding for such a project.

**Agenda Item # 4** - Mr. Law asked if there were any questions before he closed the Annual Meeting. As no questions were asked, a motion was made by John Cagnina and seconded by Barbara Dutton to adjourn the Annual Meeting portion, which was conducted for the purpose of hearing the reports for the Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007.

**Unanimously approved.**