

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Public Forum

April 26, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Webinar

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

a. Attendance:

- a. First Selectman Fred Camillo - Present
- b. Selectwoman Lauren Rabin - Present
- c. Select-person Jill Oberlander - Present

2. Public forum to discuss outdoor dining, parking and general enhancement of Old Greenwich business district.

First Selectman Camillo explained the forum was being held to elicit discussion about the concerns, thoughts and ideas of residents and business owners and what they think is best for the village. It is one of a series of forums the Board will hold in various business districts/neighborhoods around Town.

Candace Garthwaite: questioned if vacant parking spaces at the train station can be used to offset parking needs in the business district. She also spoke of drivers who illegally park in front of Sound Beach Pizza, blocking sightlines of those exiting the municipal lot.

Gary Cunningham: spoke of parking needs, especially for business employees.

Bike store owner Justin Bagnetti: suggested that traffic officers be deployed to help improve traffic flow because many businesses are quick stops for patrons.

Charlene Barnes: questioned parking and whether Arcadia Road can be one-way with diagonal parking; was also critical of timing of traffic light at Arcadia and Sound Beach.

Paul Pugliese: concerned that Old Greenwich will be targeted for affordable housing, given proximity of the train station.

Chillybear owner Rich Fulton: merchants met with Parking Services administration in 2017 to review suggestions to improve the employee parking lot behind Old Greenwich School.

Deputy DPW Commissioner James Michel stated that the parking lot and lighting improvements are complete and that employee/merchant parking permits are available.

Greenwich Parking Services Business Manager Lu Ann Bellantoni reported there are 39 merchant permits available for a \$175 annual fee.

Linnea Stenberg: concerned with drivers making u-turns on Sound Beach near the railroad overpass and suggested a crosswalk be installed there.

Business owner Abby Fox: agreed with need for crosswalk on Sound Beach near the railroad; also suggested more parking enforcement.

Peter McDermott: agreed with suggestion to install planters to discourage illegal parking in front of Sound Beach Pizza and the fire hydrant in front of Garden Catering.

Estelle Hall/Ken White, owners of Village Ewe: need more parking enforcement and for more accommodation for employees to obtain parking permits; the need to trim trees leaning on power lines and against their building (244 Sound Beach Ave.) Also expressed concern of parking availability for elderly clients who are unable to walk distances to reach their store.

Images owner Marcos Fiorno: parking enforcement is needed; there needs to be encouragement of business employees to use the permit lot.

Upper Crust Bagel Co. owner Rob Guerrierri: suggested bumpout in front of Applausi restaurant; said his minimum wage employees can't afford the parking permit fees; more parking enforcement is needed.

Feinsod Hardware owner Jay Feinsod: He pays for his employees' parking permits; concerned with bicycle riders on the sidewalk; drivers making u-turns or left turns against traffic to park.

Old Greenwich School PTA president/ Old Greenwich Association board member Carolyn Petersen: she is against use of shuttles to ferry visitors from parking lots; wants more parking enforcement; wants gate installed to stop traffic driving through school lot to CVS and West End Avenue.

Betsy Kreuter, Old Greenwich Garden Club: replace stop sign behind Kings market near the commuter lot and extend the yellow line from the cut-through from Arcadia.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Fred Camillo, First Selectman

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary