

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 11, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Greenwich Town Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:37 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Attendance:

- I. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - Present**
- II. Selectman John Toner – Present via telephone**
- III. Selectman Sandy Litvack – Present**

Following the Pledge, Mr. Tesei greeted and welcomed attendees commenting that it was the first Board meeting of 2018 and that the meeting is a Public Meeting of the Board of Selectmen who reserve the right to call on people to pose questions and make comments.

2. Approval of minutes

- a. There was a motion by Mr. Toner and seconded by Mr. Tesei to approve the minutes of the Nov. 30, 2017 meeting. The vote was 2-0-1, with Mr. Litvack abstaining as he was not a member of the Board and did not attend the meeting.**
- b. A motion to approve the Dec. 18 minutes as amended was moved by Mr. Litvack and seconded by Mr. Toner. The vote was 3-0-0.**

3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. Mr. Tesei said that on Jan. 2 he participated in the promotional ceremony for Firefighter John Kiernan to Deputy Fire Marshal. The promotion brings the Fire Marshal Division of the Fire Department up to full strength. Mr. Tesei also noted Mr. Kiernan's long public safety career includes service with the New York Police Department, the Greenwich Police Department and the Greenwich Fire Department.**
- b. Mr. Tesei noted a collaboration between the Conservation Commission and Greenwich High School has led to the awarding of a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection grant to the high school to improve recycling in the school cafeteria. He also said the effort is part of the Town's continuing efforts on sustainability.**
- c. Mr. Tesei said that the process to gather information on the proposed 2018-19 Capital Improvement Projects budget continues and that public comments will be taken during a public hearing scheduled for the evening of Jan. 11. Much discussion has centered on the Town's athletic fields, specifically Teufel Field at Byram Park and the school fields, Mr. Tesei said. He explained that those issues are separate and distinct from the High School lighting issue. He also said discussion has focused on carpet replacement on fields 6 and 7 at the High School, both of which were installed in 2005.**

- d. Mr. Tesei announced that Department of Public Works Commissioner, Amy Siebert, is being honored with the Greenwich YWCA BRAVA Award at a luncheon on Jan. 19. He said that she is the first ever municipal or government official to receive the award and described her hard-working and earnest.
- e. The first in a series of public workshop for community input for the 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17 in the Cole Auditorium of Greenwich Library, Mr. Tesei announced.
- f. The Town received notification from Governor Malloy on Jan. 10 that road infrastructure funding via the Connecticut Department of Transportation has been put on hold because of the state's financial situation, Mr. Tesei said. Two projects – the Oneida Drive bridge over Smith Cove and the Sunshine Drive project regarding the Binney Park brook are directly impacted. Mr. Tesei said three other project referenced in the Governor's announcement already have been completed. Two projects involving repairs to the Cos Cob Bridge on the New Haven Line railroad also have been put on hold.

4. Old Business

a. Approval of a revised 2018 Board of Selectmen's meeting schedule.

Mr. Litvack moved approval. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the revised schedule was approved unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Updates to Parking Ordinances/Code.

Schedule XXA – Handicapped Persons' Parking – Numerous Revisions.

Mr. Tesei introduced Capt. Mark Kordick, interim director of the Parking Services Department, as well as Hillside Road resident Ashley Cole.

Capt. Kordick explained that during the past month he has been overseeing the Parking Services Department, he has found a lack of accuracy on parking regulations, some of which are drafting or typographical errors. He said there were a number of omissions or errors over the years. As an example, he said that the ordinance indicates Bruce Park Place as running from Greenwich Avenue to Mason Street. However, the lobby of the Public Safety Complex is now located in that stretch of the former road.

Capt. Kordick also explained that every handicapped parking space must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and codified. He said many of those spaces either no longer exist or are no longer needed.

Mr. Litvack asked if Capt. Kordick is seeking to have the code reflect reality, to which Capt. Kordick replied affirmatively.

Mr. Tesei asked who is responsible for ensuring approved updates and changes to the parking regulations are incorporated into the Town Code. Capt. Kordick said it is unclear who has the responsibility.

Mr. Litvack commented that he wants to be comfortable with the proposed Code changes and that with handicapped parking, any elimination of spaces will not impact someone.

Mr. Litvack made a motion, seconded by Mr. Toner and

unanimously approved to update Schedule XXA – Handicapped Persons' Parking.

b. Schedules IV and XA – Two-Hour Parking: Timed. Hillside Road.

Mr. Tesei noted Hillside Road residents Ashley Cole and Elizabeth Dempsey in attendance.

Capt. Kordick explained the proposed change in Hillside Road parking regulations is the result of traffic and parking issues created by the Greenwich High School time change. He said the change created specific challenges, especially for the neighbors. During a review of parking regulations, there were a number of things that are not included in the Parking Code, Capt. Kordick said.

He provided an overview of the history of student parking at the campus and that when the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the science wing construction project on Dec. 26, 1995, it recognized that on-street parking was part of the entire parking count for the school. He said there is a total of 770 parking spaces at the school, including Hillside Road. He also said that any proposal to eliminate parking must be reviewed by Planning and Zoning.

Current signage allows for visitors parking along a stretch of Hillside, however, it cannot be enforced, hence the request to impose a two-hour parking limit there, Capt. Kordick explained.

Traffic Operations Supervisor Melissa Evans said approximately 12 spaces would be affected by the change.

Mr. Litvack asked why students should be given preference for on-street parking rather than residents. Capt. Kordick said that probably no one cared when the regulation was approved in 1991 and that many of the properties have enough land for residents to park.

Ms. Evans said that school Safety Director Tom Bobkowski is knowledgeable on the number of student, faculty and visitors parking spaces are available. She also said the number of student parking permits issued does not equal the number of students who drive and that the campus and on-street parking are definitely full.

Mr. Litvack questioned the role of the Board of Selectmen – what can it either do or not do. Ms. Evans said the Board can codify the 1991 regulation and the 1995 Planning and Zoning approval and that the issue would have to go back before Planning and Zoning to convert student parking to public parking. She also said that in the early 2000's there was a removal of a new permit parking regulation but there is nothing in writing. Because the Board of Education would be in violation of the Planning and Zoning approval, she said Planning and Zoning should be included in the conversation.

Mr. Tesei said the Selectmen would defer action on the request.

Ms. Elizabeth Dempsey of 21 Hillside Road, thanked Ms. Evans and Capt. Kordick for their efforts. She said that residents, some of whom pay more than \$70,000 in property taxes, want the Town to consider the overall use of the land – that it is zoned residential but that the Town rents the building frequently, including for weekly church services. She said it amounts to commercial use with a gross lack of parking in a residential zone. She said if parking has a value, everyone except the residents receive that value. Ms. Dempsey also spoke of traffic and

pedestrian safety with double- and triple-parked cars dropping off or picking up students twice a day. She also criticized Greenwich Police assigning an officer to direct school buses but not enforcing traffic laws. She asked what the Town is giving back in return for high taxes and that property values also are impacted by the toxicity and arsenic on the school property.

Ms. Ashley Cole, a resident of 11 Hillside Road, asked the Selectmen to not codify the law and make the parking situation permanent. She said property values and quality of life are at stake. She questioned why students have more rights than residents who pay the taxes, including bus transportation, many of whom do not avail themselves.

Mr. Tesei said the Selectmen are cognizant of the issues and will try to come up with a solution, and will draft a letter to the Board of Education. He also suggested that since many people already use the Post Road for pick-up and drop-off, perhaps a designated area could be established to create a pressure valve to relieve congestion in Hillside.

Ms. Evans reminded the Board that the visitor parking section needs to be converted into something that is enforceable parking.

c. Sound Beach Avenue Schedule IV – Two-hour parking: Timed.

Capt. Kordick explained that this change is to reflect deletion of the reference of Penn Central Railroad which no longer exists.

A motion by Mr. Litvack, was seconded by Mr. Toner, and approved unanimously.

d. Steamboat Road: Revisions to Schedules IB, ID, and IV.

Capt. Kordick explained the changes address a request from residents to allow on-street parking.

Mr. Litvack moved to approve the change, seconded by Mr. Toner and approved unanimously.

Mr. Tesei said that if more parking code changes are needed, the Board will act accordingly and that if necessary, suggested that temporary help be brought in. Capt. Kordick said that perhaps a summer intern will be able to assist. Ms. Evans said she has reviewed 163 pages of Section 14 of the code looking for simple solutions of reality vs. the code.

6. Appointments and Nominations

There were none.

7. Executive Session

Mr. Litvack moved the meeting go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and settlement of claims at 12:23 p.m. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was approved unanimously.

In addition to the Selectmen, also attending the Executive Session were Town Attorney J. Wayne Fox, Counsel Heather Porto, Human Resources

Director May Pepe, Workers Compensation Administrator Tiffany Navarro,
and Recording Secretary Barbara Heins.

At 12:51 p.m., the meeting came out of executive session.

Mr. Litvack made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Toner to settle
Claim # 9814502136 for \$249,727 inclusive of the Medicare set aside
of \$57,727. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Litvack moved to adjourn at 12:53 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Toner, the
Board voted unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, January 25, 2018
at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.


Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman


Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary