Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
August 2, 2021
9 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom webinar
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

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

2. Discussion of proposed parking changes to Greenwich Avenue as requested by commercial property owners – Alyssa Keleshian Bonomo.

First Selectman Camillo provided an overview of outdoor dining, impact on parking and design and implementation of the Elm Street bump-out, as well as those planned for Greenwich Avenue.

In response to a question from Ms. Oberlander, Town Planner Katie DeLuca explained that the Governor’s Executive Order allows for outdoor dining until March 2022.

Ms. Rabin stated the Re-Imagine Greenwich committee is considering developing maps with locations of 12-hour parking lots to be distributed to local businesses to share with customers.

Speakers:

Martin Rader of Lauricella Associates which owns three Greenwich Avenue buildings including the location of Meli Melo restaurant: Lost on-street parking will devalue properties; supports outdoor dining for his tenant.

Paul Pugliese, Greenwich Property Owners Association: concerned with transparency on the overall impact the bump-outs will have on parking; complimented the plantings; concerned that residents want to park no more than 20 feet from their destination; suggested consideration of creating parking at Havemeyer Field. He also requested traffic control at intersections.

Tom Torelli, Allied Property Group: commented that there isn’t any data on the plans including the number of parking spaces to be lost with each bump-out; requested formula for calculating parking; he supports idea of creating parking maps for businesses.
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Jim Michel: Explained there will be net loss of 30 parking stalls which is currently equal to the number of stalls used for outdoor dining; there is a total of 411 parking stalls on Greenwich Avenue for a 7% net loss; there will be net gain of 2 or 3 stalls at the Arch Street bump-out.

Alyssa Keleshian Bonono, property owner: expressed thanks for the beautification efforts and said existing tree wells could be used for landscaping, trees need pruning and curbs need weeding; residents are complaining about the lack of police staff at Greenwich Avenue intersections.

Jerry Cotrone, manages the J Crew building: concerned with snow removal, traffic bottlenecks and asked whether there was input from Greenwich Fire regarding bump-outs.

Jim Michel of DPW explained: that DPW conducted test runs of the Elm Street bump-out and will do so with other proposed locations; that the Town must abide by federal traffic regulations; there is review of other communities using LED-lit STOP signs at certain intersections.

Restauranteur Ramze Zakka thanked the Board for working to allow outdoor dining which is said has brought back business.

Ms. Oberlander commented that as a resident, she avoids the area, especially because of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

3. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Fred Camillo, First Selectman

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Prepared by Barbara A. Heins, Recording Secretary