

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

May 11, 2022 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

A regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held on Wednesday May 11, 2022 @ 4:30 pm in the Police Commissions Conference Room, 100 Reef Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Members Present: Commissioners: Chair Ron Pine, Secretary Peter Ambrose, Charlene Lebo, James Millington, Jack Stone, and (Kevin Kiley via phone)

Absent Commissioner Joe Cafferelli.

Chief Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick, Captain Granata, Captain Weihe.

Public Present: Janine Pocoski 79 Lewis Dr. Amy Barrett of 306 Villa Ave. (Sara Roy and Nate Rex Members of Bike/Pedestrian Committee).

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners: called to order by Chairman Ron Pine @ at 4:30 pm.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance – recited.

Chair Ron Pine recognized National Police week, which is May 15 by reading a letter remembering all who lost their lives in the community they loved. During this special week of remembrance, let us all take time to honor the memory of our officers across the nation, who has made the ultimate sacrifice.

2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes April 13 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the April 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Millington. Motion unanimously passed.

3. Traffic Surveys:

TS #1 LOCATION: North Pine Creek Road at/between Henderson Road and Bradley Street

NATURE OF REQUEST: Request increased enforcement - specifically during school pickup/drop off hours. Trimming of brush on North Pine Creek Road (heading south), that may be impairing sign sightlines. Install temporary speed monitors on North Pine Creek Road, paint STOP on the road using thermoplastic marking paint, in addition to repainting the four Stop lines (weather permitting) and consider painting stop controlled marked crosswalks to alert drivers to a crossing location.

BY WHOM: Mr. Michael Taylor

RECOMMENDATIONS: Repaint “Stop Bar Line” for southbound traffic on North Pine Creek Road. William Hurley, Town Engineer, suggested adding a red reflective post cover, also known as a “Post Delineator” to each existing “Stop” signpost to further enhance each “Stop” sign for both northbound and southbound “Stop” signs on North Pine Creek Road. Deny thermo-painted STOP on the road.

Commissioner Millington motioned to accept the above recommendations, second by Commissioner Stone. Motion passed unanimous.

TS #2 LOCATION: Villa Avenue at Lewis Drive

NATURE OF REQUEST: Install Two (2) "Stop" signs on Villa Avenue at Lewis Drive - East bound "Stop" sign in front of Teddy Bear Corner (273 Villa Avenue) and west.

BY WHOM: Amy Barrett and Richard Dix

RECOMMENDATIONS: Install a MUTCD approved Horizontal Alignment Warning Signs depicted below (W1-10e) on Villa Avenue- west of Nichols Avenue and on Villa Avenue east of Lewis Drive to warn traffic of blind intersections.

Commissioner Lebo supports the request, as saw firsthand the blind intersection on Nichols Ave.

Public Comment: Janine Pocoski of 79 Lewis Dr. gave a brief presentation regarding safety issues to the commission regarding to TS#2. Explained how it is a very dangerous intersection especially for children trying to walk to school or playground.

Coming in front of the commission with a plea from the neighborhood to help make this safer, and consider recommendations like stop signs, crosswalk, walk audit to help identify what they can do. Janine thanked the Commission for their time.

Traffic Lt. Irizarry went over the site survey, noting survey done during the morning hours coming out of Lewis Drive. Went over the town engineer’s recommendation of a sign stating that there is a blind intersection on both side of the street, one pertains to Lewis and one to Nichols. Did put up the Black Cat system today. Lt. Irizarry explained what a Black Cat does. Will record speed and volume on Friday.

Public Comment: Amy Barrett of 306 Villa Ave spoke and concurred with Janine’s comments, and spoke about how people are unsure what to do with the sign. Feels also new sign looks like it is not materially different than what is already there which she believes is ineffective.

Commissioner Pine noted Lt. Irizarry is going to study this further with the Black Cat data. The Commission will look at the request more closely. Will take into consideration the stop sign and cross walk request.

Commissioner Pine made a motion to table TS#2 request until next meeting. Second by Commissioner Ambrose. Motion passed unanimous.

TS #3 LOCATION: Old Post Road Up to Congress Street and Back (New Bike Route)

NATURE OF REQUEST: To create a new bike route and connect a couple of the existing bike routes already established. It is the Bike/Pedestrian Committee's belief that we need to continue to add routes throughout Fairfield to continue to promote "Share the Road" and encourage cars and bikers and pedestrians to respect each other. Please see attached sheet for road routes.

BY WHOM: Karen Secrist (Member of Bike/Pedestrian Committee)

RECOMMENDATIONS: Need to discuss further.

Chair Pine noted letter from Economic and Development Mark Barnhart supporting an establishment of a route.

Public Comment: Nate Rex 365 Cross Highway member of the Town of Fairfield bicycle pedestrian committee. Nate felt the commission needs more time to digest the route before making a judgement since no map provided. The Town of Fairfield endorsed the proposed routes and the Pedestrian master plan, back in June of 2013.

Nate will provide the commission with a detailed map. Chief Kalamaras suggested if bike/pedestrian committee can come up with an operational plan requesting to the Commission to put together the route, indicate where the signs would go, attach to sign poles if any, the addresses they would be in front of and line marking. This would help Commission when driving the route.

Public Comment: Sarah Roy of 3 Buena Vista Rd. Member of the bike/pedestrian committee and currently Chair. Here supporting Nate. Mission is to increase more bike routes in the community, work in collaboration with everyone in the town, that has decision making authority to push forward to make our streets more comfortable for people walking biking and driving.

Commissioner Millington made a motion to postpone TS#3 until the July meeting. Second by Commissioner Stone.

4) Old Business: None to report

- A donation to Animal Control of \$5.00 cash from Chelsea Basler, 294 Fairview Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06824, as a donation for all that is done at the Fairfield Animal Control Shelter.
- \$5.00 cash from Sarah Keller, 100 Vermont Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06824, as a donation for all that is done at the Fairfield Animal Control Shelter.
- \$10.00 cash from Jeff Robinson, 4 Laura Lane, Wallingford, CT 06492, as a donation and “thank you” for having just adopted a dog from the Fairfield Animal Control Shelter.

Commissioner Lebo made a motion to accept donations as presented. Second by Commissioner Millington. Motion carried.

6) Monthly report – Chair Pine noted to keep up the good work. Commission talked about the new Electric bikes. Deputy Chief is working on Monthly report to try finding a different format, easy to read and work with.

***Private Executive Session:**

Interview of lateral police officer candidate.

Update regarding two police officer candidates withdrawing from the process.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to go into Executive Session @ 5:12pm to discuss Interview of lateral police officer candidate.

Update regarding two police officer candidates withdrawing from the process. Second by Commissioner Millington. Motion passed.

Public session resumed at 5:54pm. No motions or votes taken in Executive session.

Commissioner Millington made a motion, second by Commissioner Stone for a conditional offer to new hire candidate Michael Schaal.

Adjournment: At 5:55pm, Commissioner Millington made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Stone. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Jude Fitzgerald/Recording Secretary