

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Michael Corsello; Bruce Kimmel; Thomas Livingston, Doug Hempstead; (arrived at 7:10PM.) Shannon O'Toole Giandurco

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director; Chris Torre, DPW Superintendant; Theresa Argondezzi, Acting Health Director; Nancy Rosetti; Bike-Walk Task Force Chair; Barbara Kinn; Peter Franz; Colon Grotheer; Gunnar Waldman; Michael Heslin; Judd Aley

1. ROLL CALL

Ms. Melendez called the meeting to order at 7:02PM and called the roll. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC HEARING- BIKE WALK ORDINANCE

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing at 7:01PM.

Barbara Kinn -399 Main Avenue

Ms. Kinn stated that she would like to remain in Norwalk and be part of the community that is committed to making pedestrian and bicycle safety as important if not more so then finding ways to increase the volume and flow of vehicular traffic. She said having spent part of her working life in municipal governments she has the experience dealing with issues that involve the efforts of more than one department, and the planning and execution of solutions as is the case with safer pedestrian and bicycle access in Norwalk. She said in her experience she has only seen two ways in which this can work with consistency and efficiency, and that one is a committed Mayor and a strong local government which may lead to greater efficiency, and the other is the codifying of the

composition duties and accountability of a coordinating body, as is the case with the proposed ordinance which will provide for both efficiencies and consistency as Norwalk moves into the future. She said in closing that she sincerely hopes that the Ordinance Committee votes to send the ordinance that is before them to the Common Council with a recommendation to approve, and that it will go a long way in assuring that the city is not known as the town where you cannot safely bicycle nor walk.

Peter Franz- Bicycle/Walk Task Force

Mr. Franz stated that Americans do not exercise enough, and are not healthy and do very poorly on daily movements and he provided the statistics. He said that walking and cycling can do a lot to help that and all it takes is 40 minutes per day, three times per week, and they are trying to change the culture in Norwalk to get people out and moving. He said that they are going to try and do what they can through events and policies within the town to work toward getting kids and adults outside more.

Colon Grotheer- 16 West Rocks Road

Mr. Grotheer stated that walking is transportation as is biking and that they are both very healthy, and for a long time we have been investing in a single mode of transportation which is driving. He said that the amount of money that is invested in automotive improvements that solve very few problems that can be used for bicycle infrastructure and pedestrian infrastructure is incredible. He also said that Connecticut is on a three to four year decline in terms of residents moving out of the state, in particular the demographic of young college educated professionals that are looking to start their family and that the reason is they want access to transit. He said by having this ordinance in place and creating a body that is going to bring all of the departments together is going to be a very good thing, because it will at least get the people in the room discussing the big picture and asked that the ordinance be supported.

Gunnar Waldman- 14 Berlington Drive

Mr. Waldman stated that he is in support of the ordinance and that he has been volunteering on the Bike/Walk Task Force for a few years, and he is excited about the work that Bike/Walk Task Force does in conjunction with the DPW. He said attracting the folks of the 18-34 demographic group to fill the new condominiums and to live in Norwalk is important economically, and we are a town of a very exciting size and has the potential to grow and to thrive. He said there will be an ongoing effort through this ordinance if it is passed.

Michael Heslin -24 Ambler Drive

Mr. Heslin stated the tourism benefits of the ordinance and it will be a regulated body that cannot be dismissed is a really good thing. He said through his business he brings approximately 10-15 people per day that do not live in Norwalk that then go do other things, and his biggest problem when they come to him to rent bikes is that there are only two places he can recommend them to go. He said by having a regulated body would help his business which would then bring other business into the town.

Teresa Argondezzi- Health Educator/ Acting Director of Heath

Mr. Argondezzi stated that from the Health Departments perspective they want everyone who is in Norwalk to make healthy choices and to be physically active, and that there is a substantial body of evidence on a national level that specific changes to communities that can actually impact the number of people are active, and how active those people are and it has been shown in research to increase activity and the safety in communities. She said it is hard to encourage people to bike when all they see is dangerous intersections or speeding motorists, and it is hard for her to even convince people to take a walk if they do not feel it is a safe or accessible method. She said that these kind of barriers can prevent even the most motivated people from making healthy choices that she is supposed to be encouraging them to make on a daily basis.

Judd Aley- 21 Splitrock Road

Mr. Aley stated that he would like the committee to think about the most economically viable popular cities in the country today and they are all bicycle and pedestrian friendly, and these types of cities are where young educated knowledge workers are flocking to. He said for Norwalk to compete economically going forward biking and walking needs to be embraced more than we do, and that a lot has been done already but that it needs to continue and he hopes that the ordinance is supported and make the Bike/Walk Task Force a permanent part of the city.

Nancy Rosetti- 399 Main Avenue

Ms. Rosetti stated she chairs the Mayors present Bike/Walk Task Force and she hopes the committee has been persuaded by all the people who have spoken tonight that having a body in Norwalk to promote bicycle and pedestrian activity is a good thing. She discussed the importance of having a commission and thanked that committee for their

consideration and hopes that they recommend the ordinance be adopted by the Common Council.

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing at 7:30PM.

3. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that at the last meeting item number six there were changes discussed and asked if the proposed changes were made and she wants to be sure it is what was agreed to. There was discussion ensued and Mr. Candela stated that the change was missed but that he will make the change. Mr. Livingston also suggested to move section six and make it a new section "D" of its own and move the current section "D" to "E".

Mr. Hempstead asked why the Bike/Walk Task Force would not choose their chairperson. Mr. Kimmel stated that with the ordinance that the Bike/Walk Task Force will have to deal with a variety of department heads, the Mayor and the Common Council and that he likes the idea of the Mayor having some direction. He also said it is also nice to have the Mayor involved because it is a cultural change shift in the city.

**** MS. O'TOOLE- GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE INSERTING A PERIOD AFTER THE WORD YEAR IN ITEM NUMBER SIX AND TO STRIKE THE REST OF THE SENTENCE AS IT CURRENTLY READS, AND TO ALSO CHANGE ITEM 6 TO LETTER "D" AND WHAT IS CURRENTLY LETTER "D" BECOME LETTER "E".**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO CHANGE CHAIRMAN TO CHAIR.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO CHANGE MUST LIVE IN THE CITY OF NORWALK TO MUST BE AN ELECTOR OF THE CITY OF NORWALK.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS AMENDED AND SENT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public commented.

5 ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

June 20, 2017

The following correction was made to the minutes:
Page 2, to change "\$95,000" to "\$9,500"

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** MOTION PASSED WITH (3) THREE IN FAVOR AND (3) THREE ABSTENTIONS.
(MR. KIMMEL, MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. CORSELLO)**

Mr. Livingston left at 8:10PM.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Norwalk Shorehaven Special Services Taxing District

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DPW Snow and Ice Removal

Mr. Chimento stated that they have been looking at the snow and ice removal ordinance for the past year to see how to make it a little better. He discussed the issues with the current ordinance and said that one of the major issues is when contractors are hired to plow driveways they plow the snow back into the road, and also plow through the road and dump snow onto the sidewalks and need to have that controlled by ordinance. He said that they have added some language that allows that.

Mr. Torre discussed some issues during and after snowstorms and said that blown and plowed snow from driveways and sidewalks including plowed snow from driveways can increase the time to plow one of the 26 plow routes by three to four hours, so to expedite plowing, not have as many snow days and not to spend so much in overtime it would help tremendously to have language in the ordinance about shoveling sidewalks. He said the reason they had added with width in the proposed ordinance change is due to ADA accessibility on sidewalks. He also said that there is nothing in the current city ordinance that says it is illegal to plow snow from a driveway or parking lot into the city streets.

Mr. Candela stated that there are numerous cities and towns that have either passed ordinances or have snow removal policies that indicate that it is illegal to move snow into the street. Mr. Kimmel asked if there is any policy regarding footpaths. Mr. Chimento said that DPW generally clears the footpaths. There was further discussion ensued regarding revisions to the ordinance.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES FOR SECTION 95-10F OF THE ORDINANCE AND TO ADD "DRIVEWAYS" TO THE TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fracking Waste

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. DISCUSSION ITEM

There was no discussion.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services