



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGINEERING

CITY OF NORWALK
Department of Engineering
125 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851
www.norwalkct.gov

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAY 7, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: James Frayer, Chairman; Darlene Young; Barbara Smyth; Melissa Murray; Dajuan Wiggins; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner (7:02pm); Heather Dunn (7:03pm)

STAFF: James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at: norwalkct.org/meetings



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comments are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting's start time. Please email Monique Cipriano at mcipriano@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairman Frayer called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Frayer called the Roll: James Frayer, Barbara Smyth, Heather Dunn, Darlene Young
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Melissa Murray, Dajuan Wiggins

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present constituting a quorum. Nora Niedzielski-Eichner (7:03pm) and Heather Dunn (7:01pm) arrived just after roll call.

PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT (GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

Diane Lauricella of 21 Little Fox Lane. She thanked the DPW Staff for helping with Earth Day and having a table with educational materials. She also had a table with educational materials and stated she would write up what she discovered from speaking with people. She wanted to inform the committee that there are two (2) different bills in the legislature, especially Senate Bill 191. It hasn't

gone to the Senate yet but it was supposed to be a major food scrap donation, recovery, and composting bill. She said over the months it had whittled down. She explained the plan to the committee. She urged the committee and staff to incorporate more green infrastructure into the construction, design, and storm drainage approaches. She named a few projects in Norwalk and asked that they try to do more. She stated there will be a walk and a public hearing regarding the undergrounding of utilities on Elizabeth Street and urged them to attend.

Chairmen Frayer closed public input at 7:07p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024.

There was no report on this item.

****CHAIRMAN FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. WIGGINS ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTANTION**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION LETTER FOR STATE PROJECT NO. 102-295, I-95 MEDIAN RECONSTRUCTION AND RESURFACING, FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK'S REMAINING DEMAND DEPOSIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YANKEE DOODLE TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$186,452, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4021 5777 C0816
 09 23 4021 5777 C0818**

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He stated that this is part of the State of Connecticut DOT I95 Median Project. He said they asked the State to include the radiation of the Yankee Doodle Trail. They estimated a demand deposit and the bids returned higher than expected. This was done through the Redevelopment Agency and was no cost associated to DPW authorizations. They are doing this through the grant match program. They will incur the costs for this and will not get reimbursed. The city is working alongside the state to get this done. A discussion ensued about cost benefit to the city. It was stated that things are already being taken care of in this project such as mobilization which benefits the city.

Mr. Sotnik explained how the projects connects and part of the process began with DOT's resources. He spoke about the Yankee Doodle Bridge and the State working under it, where the Yankee Doodle Trail was construction along with the I95 Median project also going through that area. In addition to that cost benefit, it was beneficial to have the contractor do the work while DOT was there instead of having different contractors trying to work in the same place at the same time. Each one with their own mobilization. This project will eventually be part of the Harbor Loop Trail.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A NO-COST FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE JUNE 13, 2023, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND IRECYCLE INC DBA EYERECYCLE, LLC. FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF GLASS BOTTLES AND CANS VIA POPUP EVENTS IN THE CITY OF NORWALK.**

Mr. Torre reported on this. He stated the schedule for Eyecycle is in the packet from now through the summer. He gave a summary of the progress. Stated April was the most successful month. This contract is a no fee contract. Eyecycle has a new owner, name stayed the same.

Ms. Smyth commented that when they approved the item, it was stated that they would be mindful of the recycling events put on by the schools for fundraising. She said there have been some complaints recently from parents concerned Eyecycle will hurt some of their recycling events for the schools. She said that the events are located at 98 South Main Street and mostly cater to those that do not have a car and it is easier for them to drop off. She continued saying these events are not meant to compete against other events but to help those who can't get there.

Mr. Torre made suggestions on how to inform residents of school recycling events when they have their pop-up events.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if there is an advantage to going to the pop-up events rather than putting them curbside.

Mr. Torre answered, going to the pop-up events a person is paid for a bag of recycled bottles. If you put those same bottles curbside, it costs the city money to recycle, and the resident wouldn't get paid either. The more the residents use these pop-up events, the less cost to the city. Eyecycle used to pay \$10 per bag and now it is \$20 per bag. A discussion ensued about combining efforts with the Board of Education.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING – MARCH 2024

Mr. Torre said they removed 5 trees and safety pruned 28 trees. He said there was a wind and rain event on March 11, 2024, most of the trees that came down were private trees. They cleaned up the area and took what was in the city's right of way.

Mr. Sotnik added that they are in the planting cycle right now. There were 75 to 80 trees planted with 150 more to go. They are rapidly planting trees.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner complimented the Public Works Crew with the clean-up at the high wind/rain event. She put a tree down and then put in a request and the tree was picked up within the hour. She said she was super impressed and thanked the team again.

Chairman Frayer also thanked the team for great work. He congratulated Thomas Szabo on his composting numbers. The numbers are astounding.

Mr. Torre stated that Mr. Szabo is looking into the future with sustainability and moving forward to a greener future.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MARCH 2024

Mr. Torre reported on this. MSW is the same. Recycling is down a little probably due to no longer collecting on private property such as condos.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – MARCH 2024

Mr. Torre reported on this. They are two (2) tons over their three (3) years of food composting. All the sites are doing well. This is Food Composting Awareness Week, May 5, 2024 through May 11, 2024.

D. CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS

1. CONSTRUCTION

- **DRG2019-1 DREAMY HOLLOW STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
- **RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE**
- **RA2023-1 SOUTH NORWALK EQUITABLE TOD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- **DRG2022-1 LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE**
- **PM2024-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION**
- **RD2024-1 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR BERKELEY STREET AREA**
- **RD2024-3 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR BEACON STREET AREA**
- **RD2024-2 CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS**
- **RA2024-1 REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SOIL AT 30 MONROE STREET**

3. DESIGN

- **PROJECT 102-366 WEST CEDAR STREET OVER FIVE MILE RIVER**
- **STORM DRAINAGE EVALUATION AT SELECTED LOCATIONS**
- **RNP2022-1 VETERANS PARK VISITOR DOCK REPLACEMENT**
- **RD2023-2 UNDERGROUNDING OF ELIZABETH STREET OVERHEAD UTILITIES**
- **BR2023-1 BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Mr. Meehan reported on the status. He said some of the projects under advertised for bids or pending will begin construction shortly.

Mr. Sotnik said that the 30 Monroe Street Project #RA2024-1 is a brownfields project advanced clean-up for work that has been done for the Redevelopment Agency. He gave a brief description of the project.

Mr. Meehan stated the I95 Bridge fire is a DOT project. The Public Works role with the clean-up on I95 was having the operations crews assist with the maintenance of traffic. They had to ensure that the roads, now closed, at the top of the bridge on both sides, were maintained and would coordinate with police, if need be. VMS signs are being sent out by the Operations Crews in the next day or two (2). The engineering department suspended all roadway activity or roadway construction projects during the shutdown of I95 to alleviate traffic and not cause potential problems. Lending support to DOT whenever needed.

Mr. Torre added they dropped off a loaded truck of barrels to the DOT workers. He gave credit to all the DOT workers for doing a great job with the clean-up.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Murray moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:33p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD