

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2025
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also 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 by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Monique Cipriano at mcipriano@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frayer called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chairman Frayer called the Roll: James Frayer, Barbara Smyth, Anne Wennerstrand, Heather Dunn, Darlene Young (7:12p.m.)

At Roll Call there were four (4) Committee members present, constituting a quorum present. Darlene Young arrived at 7:12p.m. Dajuan Wiggins and Nora Niedzielski-Eichner were absent.

ATTENDANCE: James Frayer, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Anne Wennerstrand; Heather Dunn; Darlene Young (7:12p.m.)

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan,

Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations, Thomas Szabo, Waste Programs Manager; Wilber Giron, Permit Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Brian Candela, Asst Corp Counsel; Nicole Eady

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: OCTOBER 7, 2025

There was no report on this item.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pamela Meskunas of 39 Lockwood Lane: Extended her appreciation to Mayor Elect Barbara Smyth and the DPW for including a status update of the Lockwood Lane sidewalk. She stated that the residents unanimously opposed the sidewalk at the public information meeting in October. She said they diligently submitted their feedback on the proposal by the deadline and are eagerly waiting for information about next steps and specifically a follow-up meeting. They want to know how and when the residents will be notified about the meeting. An exception request form was requested, and they were told it is premature, but they would still like to do that. She also stated they want to know what measures are being taken to address drainage problems as some of the residents are having issues. She said the residents should be given assurances that the drainage project is both effective and complete. She has also asked that the drain in front of her property that was moved to accommodate the sidewalk be moved back to its previous location where the rainwater is collecting.

Katie Restrepo of 15 Fairfield Terrace: She spoke in favor of the honorary street naming from Lincoln Avenue Extension to Master Chief Alexander Restrepo Way. She said he was a Brien McMahon Graduate, state champion wrestler, one of the longest serving Navy Seals. The flag has flown over the Capitol twice for his acts of bravery. He was hand selected to be on the first SEAL team six. She hopes to have another opportunity to name all of his acts of valor and the way he served the country.

Michael Serrao of Seligson Properties: President and CEO of Seligson Properties with offices for over 22 years, located at 605 West Avenue. He is in favor of the honorary naming of a portion of West Avenue. He said that Stanley Seligson was born in 1933 in Norwalk. Since the early 1950's Mr. Seligson continuously operated his various businesses headquartered in downtown Norwalk. He spent more than 60 years investing in Norwalk. He spent several decades specifically helping to shape and revitalize the West Avenue corridor. Mr. Serrao gave a brief background to all of Mr.

Seligson's property. There are letters of support from Mayor Harry Rilling and several other prominent members of Norwalk.

Michelle Petrides speaking on behalf of Charlie Restrepo. She initiated the petition for the street sign. She supports the naming and asks to make an addendum to the street name from Lexington Extension to Lincoln Avenue Extension.

Lee-Ann Etter of 18 Lockwood Lane: She strongly opposes the changes to their neighborhood. They do not want sidewalks. She is interested in the city's broad approach to city tree removals and plantings. She asked about the tree of heaven.

Jack Meskunas of 39 Lockwood Lane: He asked when they were going to abandon putting in an unwanted sidewalk on Lockwood Lane. He said the drainage project that has been going on for the past 17 years hasn't solved the problem. Now the new project is really a sidewalk project with drainage as an ancillary part of it because all the drains on Lockwood Lane were moved to accommodate the placement of a sidewalk such as the one in front of his house. He stated that none of the residents want a sidewalk and that should be the end of it. He said they are not there to be heard, they are there to be addressed and for the project to be cancelled. There is only a certain amount of money in the city budget that can be used for various projects. Why would you rip up Lockwood Lane, a street that goes nowhere to build a commercial sidewalk when the city should use that money somewhere else where it is needed. He gave an example of a school in need. He gave more details about the drains being moved.

Rick Controlini of 28 Lockwood Lane: He would like to know why they need a sidewalk. And he would like someone to answer that question.

Betsey Ward of 22 Lockwood Lane: She would like to know how this gets resolved. She wants to know the process and what happens next.

Chairman Frayer closed public participation at 7:24p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF LEXINGTON AVENUE EXTENSION TO MASTER CHIEF ALEXANDER RESTREPO WAY.

Chairman Frayer read Item A and Item B together.

The Committee began a discussion to cancel the January 6, 2026 meeting due to staff changes. All parties will be notified that the meeting has been cancelled, and the next scheduled meeting will be held on February 3, 2026.

Mr. Sotnik stated they received a letter from Ms. Petridis back in October requesting that this item be moved forward. The sign, if approved, would be put in at the Lincoln Avenue Extension area. Mr. Sotnik explained the process for honorary street naming.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM STREET NAME CORRECTION**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF LEXINGTON AVENUE EXTENSION TO MASTER CHIEF ALEXANDER RESTREPO WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M. BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.

Chairman Frayer read Item A and Item B together.

The Committee began a discussion to cancel the January 6, 2026 meeting due to staff changes. All parties will be notified that the meeting has been cancelled, and the next scheduled meeting will be held on February 3, 2026.

Mr. Sotnik stated they received a letter from Ms. Petridis back in October requesting that this item be moved forward. The sign, if approved, would be put in at the Lincoln Avenue Extension area. Mr. Sotnik explained the process for honorary street naming.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM STREET NAME CORRECTION**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF WEST AVENUE FROM WALL STREET TO CONNECTICUT AVENUE/MATHEWS PARK TO STANLEY SELIGSON WAY.

Chairman Frayer read Item C and Item D together.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED THE ITEM**

****MS. YOUNG AND MS. DUNN OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FOUR TO TWO**

D. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF WEST AVENUE FROM WALL STREET TO CONNECTICUT AVENUE/MATHEWS PARK TO STANLEY SELIGSON WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M. BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.

Chairman Frayer read Item C and Item D together.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED THE ITEM**

****MS. YOUNG AND MS. DUNN OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FOUR TO TWO**

E. AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SIDEWALK EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF THE CITY AT 467 CONNECTICUT AVENUE.

Mr. Giron reported that DPW required the developer to build a new sidewalk to improve pedestrian access and safety. Some portions of that new sidewalk extended outside of the public right-of-way and onto private property. Because of that, the city needs a permanent sidewalk easement that the public could continue to use. DPW staff, Corporation Counsel and Toll Brothers worked together to finalize the easement language and survey map. Mr. Giron shared his screen, so the committee could see the survey that outlined the boundaries. This is at the corner of West Avenue and Butler. It is also adjacent to Orchard and Quincy Street. The easement gives the public permanent access to pedestrians, sets maintenance responsibilities and allows the city to install signs and/or traffic equipment. He explained the map and answered all questions the committee had.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

F. BURNS CONSTRUCTION PM2024-2 PERMANENT PAVEMENT REPAIRS AND SURFACE RESTORATION

1. AUTHORIZE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 9, 2024, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR PROJECT PM2024-2 – PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS AND SURFACE RESTORATION, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$525,000.00
ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

2. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR PROJECT PM2024-2 PERMANENT PAVEMENT REPAIRS AND SURFACE RESTORATION, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$52,500.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

Chairman Frayer read Item F1 and Item F2 together.

Mr. Giron reported that DPW has the option to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms. They have exercised the first extension which carried them through 2025, and they would now like to request the final extension. The funding for that is for

trenches that were measured through October and includes projected excavations expected for the remainder of the year. The work on this contract is fully funded through the road restoration fees collected through the city's permit process.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 12, 2021, AGREEMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC. PROJECT 4079 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$68.86 PER HOUSEHOLD AND \$41.20 PER ½ HOUSEHOLD.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5258

Mr. Szabo reported that this is for their annual household hazardous waste collection event. They usually receive approximately 400 residents per year. Clean Harbor has always been a reliable vendor for them. They also partner with five (5) different municipalities for competitive pricing. He explained the process of organizing the dates for the event and informing residents through social media and online posting. He stated that the event begins in April to September and occurs once a month.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

H. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH MORTON SALT INC. (STATE CONTRACT# 24PSX0150) FOR ROAD SALT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$81.24/TON FOR THE 2025-26 WINTER SEASON.

ACCOUNT NO. 580000 5796 AID03

Mr. Torre explained the process of purchasing the salt. They receive almost a \$30 savings. He said that this is rock salt. . This salt will be received from a gateway terminal in New Haven. The committee began a discussion about pricing. The prices are based on State contract prices.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. FRAYER ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION**

I. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH CARGILL, INC. (STATE CONTRACT# 24PSX0150) FOR ROAD SALT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$81.24/TON FOR THE 2025-26 WINTER SEASON.

ACCOUNT NO. 580000 5796 AID03

Mr. Torre explained the process of purchasing the salt. They receive almost a \$30 savings. He said that this is rock salt. . This salt will be received from a gateway terminal in New Haven. The committee began a discussion about pricing. The prices

are based on State contract prices.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. FRAYER ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION**

J. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A 3RD AMENDMENT TO THE JULY 20TH, 2023 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND CDM SMITH INC., FOR PROJECT NOS. 4240 AND 4240A, DRG2023-2 ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$232,580.00. ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4027 5777 C0425

09 24 4027 5777 C0425

09 25 4027 5777 C0425

09 26 4027 5777 C0425

09 24 4021 5777 C0440

09 25 4021 5777 C0440

Ms. Valadares reported that they engaged CDM Smith to assist with the MS4 application approximately three (3) years ago. Every year they must reapply for the permit and maintain compliance. The request for the extension is for the renewal of the permit in the spring and so they continue to maintain compliance as well. She explained the process to the committee.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

K. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE BETTSWOOD ROAD AND BARBARA DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND SEWER SEPARATION GRANT AND ANY AND ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE GRANT.

Ms. Valadares reported that they received the grant about a year and a half ago. They focused this grant on Bettswood and Barbara Drive for drainage improvements. She explained the grant. She said they may break ground this spring. The construction costs may come to about 3.1 million dollars and the grant would cover \$950,000.00 of that cost.

****MS. DUNN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. REPORTS

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Torre reported that they do replant trees. He said if there are any concerns about the Tree of Heaven, he urged the residents to call customer service. They only take down trees in the city's right-of-way. They replant trees whenever they can and he explained that process. Mr. Sotnik reported that in this past year they have planted over 300 trees. Location can be an issue for tree planting. Ms. Valadares explained the ordinance of replacing trees to the committee. The committee began to discuss the history of tree planting. Mr. Torre said they are moving forward with their master plan and they are always going to plant more trees than they remove. They talked about more tree planting in the South Norwalk area.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT

Mr. Szabo reported that the number change could be due to the changes in garbage collection and recycling. They discussed the percentages.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT

Mr. Szabo reported they have been putting in more effort into education and outreach. Posting on social media and getting out in the public. He talked about ways to do so.

D. ONGOING PROJECTS STATUS

1. ROADWAY PAVING AND SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE AREA

Ms. Valadares reported that on October 15, 2025 there was a public information session for the neighborhood to present the drawings that their consultant Tighe & Bond prepared for the proposed sidewalk for Lockwood, Heather Lane and some of the other small streets. Those streets are part of the drainage project and there is a forecast for paving. They want to go back and pave the road and follow the complete street ordinance, to do so they are proposing adding sidewalks to those streets. All of the residents had an opportunity to send comments to them by October 31, 2025. They compiled all the comments received by the first week of November with the consultant. They are now reviewing those comments to see what they can do with the design. They are expecting feedback very soon. Once they receive the design, they will schedule another public information session with what the new proposed design will be and try to address the concerns.

Mr. Candella stated that all city projects shall apply to the complete streets design guide to all transportation projects within the city unless they may be exempted under 33A7 or accepted under 33A. He went over the exemptions and exceptions with the committee and went through steps. The committee began a brief discussion about what the ordinance states and how to address the needs and concerns of the residents if they don't want the sidewalks. Mr. Candella said that besides talking to your elected official

or coming to public meetings, residents can voice their opinion by filing an exception report or claim an exemption under these projects, under the ordinance. Committee members expressed their concern of how to engage residents long before projects start and improving the communication as well.

2. UPDATE STATUS ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Meehan reported they have completed sidewalks and paving installation on Flax Hill Road and Highland Avenue to Arbor Drive. Still working on Arbor Drive to Washington Street. Lockwood and Heather drainage have been done, finishing all the patchwork. There are minor punch list items. Grumman Ave is complete besides one small area. There will be test pit work on Rowayton Avenue coming up. West Cedar Street Bridge is now complete. The ribbon cutting is being held on Friday. He said Lexington Avenue doesn't have right-of-entry, but they are trying to acquire that now so they could do the work.

VII. DISCUSSION

There was no report for this item.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Smyth moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 9.12p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED
BY REGULAR MEETING BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE