

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on March 26, 2013.

Present

B. Nunno, Chairman
P. Vetro
B. Anderson
F. Smith
D. German

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, PW Director
L. Streit, Recording Secretary
Skip & Marsha Ziebell
Bill Piacitelli

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Concerns

Skip Ziebell, 10 Silver Street, stated that the City Engineer performed surveys on the parking lot and deemed that the material is on City property. He would like it removed down to the catch basin. Bruce stated that there are some issues with that; the training wall by the outlet from the creek (The DEP Commissioner was down there and they are talking about shortening that). The Mayor is asking for dredging and the City Engineer wants it clean to the marsh. Decks floated away from Storm Sandy and the marsh was allowed to be cleaned out from this. Bruce stated that regulations have to be followed so that there are no consequences later. Skip stated that he doesn't see a problem with cleaning a city street. Bruce stated that witness stakes are going to be put out there and this has to be done in the warmer weather. The baffles being redone at the tide gate is being discussed. The State has hired a contractor and the plan will happen and power will be put in. Charging for park entrance is being reviewed. Marsha Ziebell stated that from James Street to the park is a problem from erosion from Storm Sandy. Bill Piacitelli, (had a house on Silver Street and now lives on Blair Street) stated that the beach is gone from the last 2 storms and asked if there were any plans on replenishing the sand. Bruce stated that the DEP has been contacted for this. Skip stated that the Neighborhood Association brought the park in and they didn't want a culvert and pushed to close the Blair Street culvert; this messed with Mother Nature which started from the flood of 1982. Now, sand has been disappearing for the last 15-20 years from one side and building up on the other side. Sand can not be moved from one side to the other with out permits, etc. There is a steady flow of salt water from normal rain and it stops at James Street. Bruce stated that a permit has been applied for for sand at Gulf Street but sand was not brought in; it was moved from one side to another. This was accomplished through work with the Army Corps and the DEP. Moving the sand has to be requested. Marsha stated that on the sandy side kids play and can't see the culvert and it is a safety factor. Skip stated that the DEEP gave a temporary permit to move the sand onto the beach from the storm. Bruce stated that houses are being raised in the area from the storm. It was discussed that Burt Munroe's idea was to put in cement block barriers for a year to see if this would help and it was denied. Moving sand shouldn't be a problem; there will be another meeting regarding this area and Skip would like to attend. A memo will be sent to the City Engineer for the next meeting with the DEP. This will help residents on Gardner and Silver. Bill stated that there is debris from Storm Sandy at the end of Tremont Street; mailboxes, wood pallets, etc. Marsha stated that the wetlands

across from Zimmerman Park need to be cleaned up. She further stated that there was a Flood and Erosion Board at one time and asked what happened to that. Bruce stated that he does not know and suggested she ask her Aldermen. F. Smith stated he would look into this.

Director's Report

There has been a lot of snow and nowhere to put it. Plows couldn't turn corners and were getting stuck. A pay loader was used for a plow for the Fire Trucks and ambulances. The storm was brutal for emergencies and there were quite a few medical emergencies. A discussion followed regarding snow removal/dumping. Snow was brought up to Eisenhower Park. Public Works' equipment held up during the storm and the snow was cleaned up and it didn't cost as much as other municipalities. The new truck came in the day before the storm. The hiring of contractors was discussed as well as the National Guard coming in to help. The regular garbage pick up schedule was able to be maintained. Nunno asked what could be improved/what was learned for future storms of this caliber. Bruce stated that more training is needed for preparation; the auger that shoots snow saved a lot of time. A discussion followed regarding damage to schools, sidewalks, etc. There were a lot of issues with cul-de-sacs. Staff did 16 hour shifts and everybody had to be pulled in. Chains and hooks were put on trucks.

Now, people are looking for the tennis courts and fields to open.

Budget

Public Works is low on funds. Kelly is swamped and in need of the other full time person that was not replaced after retirement. There is just Kelly and a part time clerk. Processing payroll for 147 people was discussed. The budget is at the Board of Finance. FEMA reimbursement is only for 48 hours of the storm.

Funds for the garage are depleted for this year; \$80,000.00 is needed until June.

Equipment was discussed; a pay loader, dump truck and chipper are needed. More can not be done with less; this is a big department.

A discussion followed regarding plantings in the city. Organizations should be recruited to adopt a spot. Longevity of an organizations maintaining and abandoning sites was discussed.

An office person is priority in the budget.

Concerns

Anderson asked about the Boston Post Road. Bruce stated that this is a State road and they are talking about spring for work and some preliminary work has already begun. Anderson asked about the Fort Trumbull revetment. Bruce stated that it is being done

now; the fence has been taken down. The contractor wants to be aggressive and should be complete by the end of summer. Anderson stated that there was a lot of damage at the public access way. Bruce stated that a flapper valve was put in there.

German asked about a tree at 14 Nicole Drive that has a sidewalk lift. Bruce stated that he would look into this.

Vetro asked about the crosswalk button by Fire Headquarters; it keeps beeping and he has received 3 complaints in 2 days. Bruce will look into this and noted that it is a State pole.

Nunno asked about Surf and East Broadway and stated that the storm drain has been filled for days at the Mariners Walk entrance. Bruce stated that he would look into this. Also the bottom of Laurel Avenue, the storm drain is flooded. Bruce will look into this. Nunno asked about the Benham Avenue tennis courts. Bruce stated that this will not be worked on. Nunno asked about the light at Naugatuck Avenue and Monroe Street. Bruce stated that this is being worked on and should be done by the end of the week. Nunno asked about the growth at the fence at Eighth Avenue. Bruce will look into this.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be on 4/29/13.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit