

**Present**

B. Anderson  
D. German  
P. Vetro  
K. Fortunati  
T. Giannattasio  
J. Golden

**Also Present**

C. Saley, PW Director  
L. Streit, Secretary  
Aldm. C. Gaynor  
Janet McAllister, Conservation Comm.  
Dominick Cotton, 5<sup>th</sup> District Resident

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and gave an overview for new members of committee meetings, tours taken, practices and to bring issues from their district forward to the committee.

**Director's Report**

**Merwin Avenue** – finishing up the concrete ramps.

**Tree Work** – tree lifts and stumps are being worked on. Tree work is being done in front of City Hall; a tree is very damaged (pretty hollow/rotted) and is being removed. The wood from this will be repurposed. The UI Company is doing the work; it is a very large, old ash tree.

**Paving** – is being finished up. The Gas Company has been working in the River Cliff area. Anderson asked if Gulf Street is complete. Chris stated that it is not; there has been a temporary repair done. The Gas and Water Companies have done a lot of work over there. Due to these projects and coordination of such; the next phase will be under the railroad. DEEP is looking for a full permit. Fortunati asked for clarification. Chris stated that by the beach there will be a half circle sidewalk around the bend; they want to make the area safer and give people the opportunity to see the area. Giannattasio asked how many people this would hold. Chris stated that it will be 140 – 150' long. He further stated that the roads need a lot of work and he will be requesting funds in the budget for this. Giannattasio asked when asphalt plants close. Chris stated they typically close in December, depending on the weather. High visibility cross walks are being done; High Street and Broad Street, on Wednesday.

**Walnut Beach Pump Station** – pipe repair is complete. Chris is negotiating for a fuel cell at the Housatonic Plant. Anderson asked if there would be Consultants for the pump stations. Chris stated that he wasn't sure. Repairs are being done at the Beaver Brook Treatment Plant; aeration was leaking. Anderson asked if someone was hired for the vacant position at Beaver Brook. Chris stated that there are currently 24 positions vacant and the Mayor has authorized filling 11 positions. Giannattasio asked for a list of the vacant positions. Chris stated that he will forward him this; noting that all of the positions will also be able to plow. There have been a lot of retirements and he wants skilled people. Positions are posted internally and then posted outside. Anderson recommended that Committee members do ride-alongs to see and better understand what is involved.

**Walnut Beach Project** – the parking lot is being repaired. Nettleton Avenue will be opened for emergency access. The Fire Chief sent a memo to Chris with his concerns with access in this area during events; it is very busy. Nettleton Avenue is being cleaned up; this will be a safety component. There are a number of man holes that have been covered over the years; filled in with material. Chris met with Heritage Sound 4/5 weeks ago. Anderson stated that taking vegetation was an issue in this area. Chris stated that they got a Botanist to come in; access to Nettleton Avenue is needed. Dual access was requested and there are concerns with flooding. Then the area will be replanted if appropriate; a ton of invasives have been removed. A more beneficial ecosystem is the goal. The white pines are attempting to be saved per Steve Johnson; they are working with the Tree Commission as well. Anderson stated that this area was never discussed and he was surprised and showed photos of the area. Janet McAllister introduced herself and stated that she Chairs the Conservation Commission

and is an environmentalist by profession and was taken aback by the amount of clearing. She was aware of the road widening but this is fast moving and getting larger than road widening so she reached out to the Mayor. She met with Steve Johnson and Chris and is concerned that there is not a specific plan. She feels that this has moved beyond the intended scope. There is extensive re-vegetation, roads being widened, the berm is 40-50' from the road and a fine process material is spread. She felt she needed clarity of what is being done. This area should remain as Walnut Beach Park and not a parking lot. She would like to know the end result plan, maintenance, etc. Chris stated that they met on site on Wednesday and spent 2 hours down there. A lot of design builds have been done in the City; the scope changes in the field based on findings/circumstances on site. They are not looking to expand paving. They are looking to increase the water quality and reduce the impervious area. The goal was to have emergency access. Janet would like to clarify the area between the trees to the back of the berm and what is the best vision. Anderson showed pictures of the site on his I-PAD. Chris stated that it won't be a road, it will be a meadow. There are no goals of paving other than the existing areas; no new paving. They will vegetate the berm (will work with a Botanist). The goal is to bring in more volunteers. Janet would like to know what the rest of the plan is before additional work is done. She is a Plant and Soil Scientist and is very aware of the challenges; long term vegetation is a process and the berms may need to be a different shape for success. Giannattasio asked why this project wasn't brought before the Commission and if decisions in the field were at Public Work's discretion. Chris stated that decisions in the field are at the Public Works discretion. Anderson stated that most – 90 – 95% of projects within the city are discussed and this has not come to their attention. Chris stated that this was originally trimming trees and it morphed. All work was done in house; milling was the only thing outsourced. Anderson stated that Public Works has done a phenomenal job at Welche's Point and Founders Walk and stated that there was discussion with Heritage Sound about a year ago and there was a lot of resistance and he thought this was no longer being entertained. Janet stated that the area from the edge of pavement to the back of the berm needs a plan. Chris stated that he would like the front of the berm to be the same. There is a lot of wildlife there and the Heritage residents were mostly opposed to the board walk. Janet thanked everyone for the invitation to the meeting.

**Milford Point Road** – to the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue extension, the Indian dig is finished and the road widening will be done.

**Duck Pond** – project will begin. There is a meeting tomorrow at 10:00 on North Street with the contractor. Purchasing the land next to the Transfer Station is looking like a good project. Chris will keep all updated.

### **Concerns:**

**Anderson** – asked about the flapper valves. Chris stated that he met at Bayview and they will raise the catch basins and will ultimately be raising the road. Anderson asked about East Avenue. Chris stated that it is on the list to be done as soon as possible. Anderson asked about the rusted bridge at Gulf Beach. Chris stated that he is looking into this.

**Giannattasio** – asked about a house on Field Court, the house was not lifted sufficiently and asked about the house or road being lifted more. Chris stated that that would be very expensive and more houses would have to be raised and fill put in to fix the problem. The goal is to make it better/improve and to slow if not stop the water.

**Vetro** – complimented Public Works on the great job done on the green for the tree lighting recognizing that this was done with low staff levels.

**German** – asked about the numbers for recycling. Chris stated that he would send them to him. German asked about Simon Lake School. A discussion followed; this building is substantially used and is in need of repairs. It is being used by the Police Academy and the Boys and Girls Club. These are increased costs with no increase

in budget. German complimented Public Works on the willow tree on the Duck Pond and asked if there was a committee for the tree lighting. Chris stated that there is not and noted that the green tree is for the Veterans; the cost of lights was discussed.

**Fortunati** – requested a ramp/handicapped access at Driftwood and Gulf Streets. Chris stated that that will not be able to be done until spring.

The next regular meeting will be on January 22, 2018.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit