

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on April 30, 2013.

Present

B. Nunno, Chairman
B. Anderson
F. Smith

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, PW Director
L. Streit, Recording Secretary
Mr. Sullivan, 21 Derby Ave.
Andrea Coulson, 23 Derby Ave.
Steve & Cynthia Bump,
90 Stagecoach Circle
Steve Johnson, Open Space and
Natural Resource Agent
Alderwoman, Susan Shaw

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

Public Concern

Mr. Sullivan reviewed and discussed the flooding/ponding in the area of Derby Avenue. Bruce reviewed the history of the area and stated that he would see if the City's Engineering Department would view the area as well to discuss options; noting that areas along the coast have problems. Pictures were distributed. Mr. Sullivan stated that the storm sewers empty into the marsh and when the tide comes in, the water comes up the sewer and they are looking for a flapper valve. It was discussed that the area of Derby, Marsh and Sand Streets; water accumulates and stays. The water puddles and ices over and becomes a problem. So much so that you can't even walk down the street without going through people's yards. The water gets about 8" deep. Bruce explained that there was a drywell there but it became a problem with the West Nile Virus and had to be filled in. He suggested bringing the pavement up so it would run off each side into the grass area; then residents could at least walk in the street. Anderson asked if Virginia Street was similar to this. Bruce stated that in its flatness it is. The aquifer can't take it; it is full and there is nowhere for the water to go. Bruce stated that he would pave down the middle of Derby Avenue but this would displace the water into the yards. Mr. Sullivan discussed the flow to go towards the marsh. Bruce stated that this is a long way to carry a grade but it could be tried. Anderson asked if the neighbors would object to this plan. Ms. Coulson and Sullivan stated that they did not think so. Nunno discussed a channel and piping. Bruce stated that this would not work and would in fact bring water in from the marsh. The residents would like to try the paving. Bruce stated that this couldn't be done until there is warmer weather.

Steve and Cynthia Bump, 90 Stagecoach Circle, wanted to discuss portable basketball hoops. S. Shaw stated that a complaint has been filed by a neighbor and the Bump's were told that they had to remove the hoop and that it can not obstruct city property. Bruce stated that he would like the owner to move it back; it can not overhang in the street right of way. Three City drivers have had near fatal accidents with them. Mr. Bump stated that if it is a hazard, they will do something but there are multiple hoops on the street and the complaint has come from a neighbor. Bruce stated that one sanitation worker was almost decapitated from a hoop; one went through the windshield of a plow truck and one got caught in an exhaust pipe. The rim can not overhang into the street. Mr. Bump asked if Public Works should decide if a hoop has to be removed not a

neighbor and there are 100 hoops in the neighborhood. Shaw stated that the complaint was filed by a neighbor not due to safety. Bruce stated that there are a number of hoops that do not overhang. Mrs. Bump stated that there are a number of them in the street. It was suggested that this be brought up with the Ordinance Committee. Smith stated that they are portable and can be moved. Bruce stated that no one moves them; some put sand bags on them to weigh them down. Shaw asked if when Public Works is out on the street, isn't it the homeowner's responsibility to move the hoops. Bruce stated it is an issue for UPS and the Postal Service as well and people do not move them back and forth. It has to be all or nothing through an ordinance. Mrs. Bump stated that the letter states there is a daily fine and asked who enforces this. Bruce stated that it is a form letter that goes out and Public Works has the authority over the street right of way. The Police Dept. could close a street for an accident, etc. Public Works has no arrest authority and the only recourse is a fine. Anderson asked if any other neighbors received a letter. Mrs. Bump stated that they have and they took their hoops down. Mrs. Bump stated that they moved theirs back. Mrs. Bump stated that there are about 30 or 40 kids on the street and they play street hockey, night tag, etc. Kids play full court with one hoop on each side of the street. Bruce suggested an ordinance having a provision for a cul de sac. Mr. Bump stated that it could be moved on garbage night. Bruce stated then there is bulk pick up, UPS, mail, fire, etc and it can not be left up to the homeowner. It was discussed that basketball hoops are not addressed in an ordinance. Bruce stated that it is within Public Works purview and they can not be in the street right of way/overhang. This is not the first complaint and he suggested working with the Aldermen in Ordinance. Nunno suggested putting the hoop in the driveway at the curtain and drew a diagram. It was discussed having them on a sidewalk and a curb cut. Bruce suggested an ordinance first.

Susan Shaw distributed pictures of the Point Beach Drive area from storm damage and the dangers/safety issues. Bruce stated that they will start working on that area in the next few weeks.

Steve Johnson asked about garbage cans and the 50 gallon drums stating that they stay out all year at Eisenhower Park and they are removed from the beach area in the winter. Bruce stated that this is a contractual issue between Highway and Sanitation to pick them up. Steve stated that some barrels are overflowing and questioned if they won't be picked up til May. The barrels were discussed; 100 barrels were lost last year. Some end up in Long Island Sound and some people take them. There are some problem areas with the barrels; people bring household trash to dump in them. The barrel schedule was reviewed; pick up on Mon., Wed. and Fri. Johnson stated that there are a considerable amount of plastic ties being cut and left on the ground at the tennis courts at Eisenhower Park.

Concerns

Smith reported a sidewalk/tree lift at 34 Collingsdale Drive. Bruce will look into this. Smith also asked about the vegetation on 8th Avenue. Bruce stated that it will be sprayed.

Nunno stated that the Harbor Commission reported that there was a large tree in the Duck Pond. Bruce stated that this has been removed. Also, the area of Pond Street – there is debris at the end of Pond Street, the guardrail got destroyed in the storm and the staging area by the pump station

is a mess. Bruce will look into this. Breakneck Lane – there is a large tree that is damaged and the residents are concerned with safety for the kids. Bruce will look into this.

Anderson asked about Corona Drive – there is a pile of brush up against the street. Bruce stated that he would look into this.

The next regular meeting will be on 5/28/13.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit