

**Joint Committee on Community Safety**  
**February 21, 2008 Summary**  
**Audiotape of the meeting is available at Town Clerk's Office**  
**Minutes are available at Town Clerk's Office**

**1. Call to order:** 7:00 pm

**Present:** Mitch Page, Dave Tompkins, Myra Cohen, Janice Joseph, Kris Nasinnyk, Kevin Borrup, Meg Casasanta, Dave Nagel, Pam Raynock

**Absent:** Tim Manke, Steve Bafundo

**Also attending:** Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services, Sgt. Jeanine Allin, Police Mike Crouchley, President Chamber of Commerce

**2. Public Participation – None**

**3. Approval of 12/20/07 Summary – Approved with one abstention**

- 4. Chamber of Commerce :** Mike Crouchley, President of Chamber of Commerce contacted chamber members and received the following safety concerns which were identified and discussed with the Committee:
- Intersection of Willard and Cedar: Discussion regarding the Town and State plans for the whole area from Fenn Rd. to Cedar and Main St. Ken Freidenberg suggested having Ed Meehan, Town Planner attend a future Joint Committee meeting to discuss the town's short and long-term plans.
  - Pot holes- Sgt. Allin will contact Highway Dept.
  - Business break-ins: Police are addressing the most recent situations. Sgt. Allin suggested that any business who would like the police to come to their place of business to do a safety survey to contact her. Mike Crouchley will pass this offer along to the membership.
  - Traffic and speeding at Market square – Police now have a traffic counter that provides an analysis in the area and that has been very helpful.
  - No Bikes at Mill Pond - Sgt. Allin explained that this restriction was made for the Extravaganza. Police also intervene when they identify inappropriate bike use. This is not a blanket policy.
  - Snow and Ice – There was discussion about particular areas. Sgt. Allin suggested contacting police or highway. Police will enforce violations.
  - More police officers - Sgt Allin commented that there will be more officers.
  - 66 Cedar Street – problem youth behaviors; and employees afraid to leave the building alone at night. The Committee commented that it has been an ongoing issue discussed at the Joint Committee meetings. Police are doing their best to address the concerns. Sgt. Allin added that police can be called to escort employees to their car at night.
  - There was a discussion about what attracts businesses to move to Newington including good schools and town services and accessibility.

- Other ideas discussed included digital signage co-sponsored with business and welcome wagon. Mike Crouchley thought the Chamber might be interested in these ideas. He also stated that the Chamber continues to be very active and meets the third Tuesday of the month. Ken Freidenberg will talk with the Town Manger and Town Planner about meeting with the Chamber Board to further discuss the digital signage and welcome wagon ideas.

**5. New Meadow Woods and other neighborhoods**

- Jennifer Walker reported on the Parks and Recreation Board meeting where they discussed the Skateboard Park and other vandalism and graffiti concerns.
- She also updated the Committee on New Meadow woods area and that representatives are having ongoing discussions with Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Wendy Rubin. Sgt. Allin wanted to clarify that the Police are interested in a name only recognizing that it may not be feasible to make it a park. They do feel that if the area was named after Ciara McDermott then it may be respected more and high school youth might take more ownership. Jennifer Walker further reported on the many positive responses from the neighborhood residents and Boy Scouts to get involved in more clean ups. They are also looking to make the area a Parks and Recreation “Adopt-a-Spot.” project.

**6. Interim Report** – There is a possibility that the Committee will be placed on the Town Council agenda for March 11. Once that occurs, Ken Freidenberg was encouraged to get the information out to all those on the e-mail list.

**7. CIRMA Report** – The report has not been submitted as yet.

- The Committee discussed the origins of using CIRMA as a consultant. There was also discussion about primary prevention and physical and equipment security recognizing they are not mutually exclusive.

**8. Safe Routes to Schools**

- Mitch Page reported that the group will be presenting at the PTO/PTA/PAC groups. The overview hand-out was also included.

**9. Community Conversations**

- Ken Freidenberg reported that Newington, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill Educational Conversation on Community and School Safety will be held March 27 from 5pm to 9pm at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center. Each town needs to bring a diverse group of 35 people representing as many groups and interests as possible: parents, youth, seniors, teachers, administrators, clergy, police, business, athletic groups, non-profits, etc. Additionally, we are trying to bring together a group that reflects diversity in economics, race, and religion, etc.

**10. Library Tour** - Scheduled for 2/22 at 8am.

**11. Other Business** – Mitch Page commented that he did not know whether the Joint Committee would continue in its present form but wanted to thank all the members for their dedication and hard work since its inception. Myra Cohen suggested that the resolution needed to be changed as some felt there was not enough clarity to the Joint Committee's purpose.

**12. Public Participation**

- Rose Lyons commented that she and other residents really appreciate the Joint Committee and feel that the group has been responsive to the concerns raised at these meetings.

**12. Adjournment** – 8:55pm



Respectfully Submitted: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday March 20, 2008 at 7pm Helen Nelson Room