

Joint Committee on Community Safety
May 29, 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: 7:02 pm

Present: Mitch Page, Dave Nagel, Jan Joseph, Dave Tompkins, Myra Cohen, Kris Nasinnyk, Kevin Borrup, Tim Manke

Absent: Steve Bafundo, Meg Casasanta, Pam Raynock

Also attending: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services, Sgt. Jeanine Allin, Police

2. Approval of 4/17 Summary – Unanimously accepted

3. Public Participation - Ten residents from the Fisk Drive area shared their concerns about their neighborhood. The following are a summary of their comments:

- Speeding by youth and adults, not enough police enforcement and presence before and after-school hours.
- Children living and biking in the area are at risk because of the speeding. Youth and adult drivers ignore signs that residents have posted to get people to slow down. A car parked in the neighborhood was hit by a speeder. There needs to be consequences.
- Town should be doing more.
- One resident complained about Building Department's attitude when residents come in to do business.
- Concerns expressed about the bus stop and Fisk and Lloyd, also crosswalk at Dowd and Neil.
- Suggestions include speed bumps, more police presence at the hours needed, Mayor should attend Safety meeting. Dr. Perlini should attend as well. Town should be doing more and looking at all of Newington.
- Residents are very frustrated; they want more assistance from the town and police.

Sgt. Allin commented about some of the concerns and fully appreciates their frustration.

- There are 15 streets identified similar to the Fisk Drive area.
- Speed limits are set by the state on all state routes but the town sets the speed limit on town roads.
- Manpower is an issue. During the morning hours there are only four officers on the road and medical calls and others take precedent.
- Officer Webster is out there as much as he can but he also has other responsibilities.
- They have tried a number of things such as scrolling messages at the high school, educating students through the School Resource Officer.
- There are some positives as there are new officers who have recently completed their training.
- The Police Chief is looking into speed bumps.
- Sgt. Allin will contact DOT to see if there might be additional funds to assist. They

- received some funds for additional patrols on the Berlin Tpke.
- Sgt. Allin is hoping to have another officer with her unit that will help address some of the neighborhood issues.
- Sgt. Allin will contact Alan Avery from School Transportation to discuss the bus stop concern.

Members of the Committee also commented about the need for neighborhoods to organize and make the Town Council aware of their concerns and suggestions. Kevin Borrup mentioned that there is new state legislation that passed regarding youth and driving which begins August 1. Information can be obtained on the DMV website: www.ct.gov/teendriving Members discussed the Safe Routes to School grants and the desire to have the Town work with the neighborhoods to take advantage of these funds. It was suggested this be coordinated through Town Manager. Director Ken Freidenberg explained the Q-Alert system on the Town website and encouraged residents to use this to register their concerns, complaints, compliments and suggestions. Myra Cohen requested these minutes be forwarded to the Town Council.

- 4. PTO/PTA/PAC Representatives** - Mitch Page sent letters to the Presidents and Vice Presidents of each group inviting them to tonight's meeting. It was concluded that the lack of attendance may have impacted by the many end of the year activities. The Committee decided to attend their meetings. The following members volunteered: Jan Joseph and Tim Manke will contact E. Green, Anna Reynolds and Martin Kellogg; Kevin Borrup and Dave Tompkins will contact John Patterson and John Wallace; Mitch Page will contact Ruth Chaffee and the High School. Mitch Page and Kevin Borrup will develop an overview of the Committee that can be used for a brief presentation at each PTO/PTA/PAC meeting. The Committee's desire is to obtain input regarding any concerns or issues from each group.
- 5. Website Comments** – Ken Freidenberg passed out a summary of e-mails received from residents since May 9. A comment area for the Joint Committee is on the Town website home page as was requested last month.
- 4. New Meadow Woods and other neighborhood updates**
 - Jennifer Walker reported on the very successful clean up that occurred on May 3. She passed out before and after pictures. There were donations from Lowes and she praised the neighborhood, Officer Webster, Highway, Parks and Recreation and Mill Pond Church youth and adults who all helped. It is making a great difference. While there was some graffiti displayed after, the area has improved. Sgt. Allin commented that the Police have made some arrests and graffiti has to be cleaned up immediately. There was some discussion about damage proof lights for the area and graffiti cameras. Also a discussion about a spray paint ordinance which the Police investigated but could not develop locally per state legislature.
- 5. Other Business**
 - Mitch Page reported that he was contacted by the Charter Revision Committee and was asked to attend their June 26 meeting. There was a discussion about whether this Committee should be made permanent and included in the Charter. Mitch Page and

Kevin Borrup will investigate options. Ken Freidenberg explained the distinction between the Charter and Town Ordinances as some Commissions are not in the Charter but are set up by Ordinance.

- Myra Cohen raised concern about artificial turf and the recent grant received.
- It was decided that Ken Freidenberg will ask Ed Meehan, Town Planner to attend the next meeting to discuss traffic issues etc. Ken requested that Committee members e-mail him questions and other areas they would like Ed to address.
- Kris Nasinnyk and the rest of the Committee congratulated Mitch Page on receiving the Chamber of Commerce Public Safety award.

6. Public Participation – Jennifer Walker expressed her concern about artificial turf.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM



Respectfully Submitted: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services
Next Regular Meeting: Thursday June 19 at 7pm Helen Nelson Room