MINUTES
Commissioners' Meeting
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
May 5, 2025
6:30pm, Community Center and via Zoom

Commissioner Langalis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Attendees – Commissioner Tammy Langalis, Commissioner Andy Meyerson, Treasurer Gil Kernan, Assistant to the Treasurer Doug Hillman.

Minutes from the April 7th Meeting were approved by Ms. Langalis and Mr. Myerson.

Beach Sticker Process
- The district introduced an online system for residents to obtain beach stickers last year.
- A walk-in day for beach stickers is scheduled for May 10th from 9 AM to 12 PM at the community center, coinciding with the Garden Club's plant sale and the rescheduled trash bash.
- Residents can pay with check or cash only on walk-in day. Credit card payments are not accepted.
- Beach stickers cost $30. An online PDF form can be printed, filled out, and brought in.

State Representative Tracy Marra
- State Rep. Tracy is present to discuss a bill before the Senate regarding the use of certain pesticides.
- The bill addresses resiliency infrastructure, flood disclosures, coastal site planning review, construction in flooding zones, municipal bond funding, climate strategies, and emergency planning.
- The bill also addresses rodenticides, which pose a threat to birds of prey like eagles.
- Tracy has sent the bill to planning and development to ensure everything looks okay.
- The final language of the bill is not yet available, but it is expected to include a separate Neonicotinoid bill.

Concerns About the Bill
- Concerns exist regarding the application of herbicides and pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids, and how they treat seeds.
- Exceptions for agricultural use are included, allowing pesticide use if no alternative works.
- Representative Carver, the chair of the committee, will meet with Tracy to discuss the bill.
- Norwalk has pledged not to use herbicides or pesticides on multiple fields, but this is not currently addressed in the bill.

Legislation
- Speaker will keep a lookout for the final language of legislation.
- Planning and Zoning has never opined on legislation before, as they focus on real estate projects.
- Advocates often ask people to contact legislators, but it's important to dig into the details or trust the speaker to help.
- Speaker won't know the exact date of votes, even close to the day, but the bill will go to the Senate first.

Updates and Concerns
- Speaker will update after talking to Parker, who has already received information.
- Energy bill language is unknown.
- Homeschooling regulations are being debated due to a tragic event.
- Special education bills are looking at mandatory reimbursements for outplaced kids, impacting town budgets.

E-Bikes and Golf Carts
- Legislation is being worked on for E-bikes and electric scooters, along with golf carts.
- Concerns exist about kids on electric bikes not obeying traffic rules.
- Current E-bike regulations are outdated and need to be updated.
- A golf cart company wanted to operate in Norwalk but was denied by both the city and the speaker.

Bayley Beach Playground
- The playground is being installed.
- Ted and Bob have been helping with the installation.
- Completion is expected by Memorial Day weekend.
- Kayak and paddleboard racks have been moved and will be reinstalled.

Dog Park Management Update
- The dog park is currently closed for reseeding.
- All the gates are being replaced and will have codes on them.
- The park will reopen Memorial Day.
- Registration will begin in June, and the code will be effective July 1st.
- Proof of dog licensing and vaccinations will be required for registration.

Bayley Beach and Community Center WI-FI Project Update
- Hotspots have been added to Bayley Beach.
- New WI-FI equipment is being investigated for the community center.
- Frontier has run the fiber line, and the router needs to be installed.
- Marty Roth and Jody Sattler are reviewing bids from networking companies.
- The goal is to have internal and external WI-FI coverage for events and users.
- The plan is to cover the front lawn and throughout the building.

Cell Tower
- The district is evaluating the placement of a cell tower in town.
- The fire department is considering hosting the tower.
- The district needs to weigh the benefits of cell coverage against the visual impact.

Routine Train Station Unpaid Violations
- Notices have been sent out to scofflaws who haven't paid their tickets.
- Someone mailed a check in.
- Working on a scofflaw report for those with three or more outstanding tickets.
- Notices are sent out 22 days after a violation.
- They are catching up from January 1st of 2024.
- The Barnacle is close to being used.

Bayley Beach Camp
- Paco Fabian will be starting up a new sports camp at Bayley Beach.
- Billy Pank will be the assistant beach director.

Other Items
- Dogs are allowed at the beach from November 1st to March 30th.
- Community center bathrooms are completed.

Porch Jam
- The RCA is taking over managing Porch Jam this year.
- Dre and her team mapped out band locations and timing.
- Changes this year include more police officers, private security, Porta Potties, a cleaning crew, and food trucks.
- Traffic flow will be adjusted on Pine Point Avenue to avoid bottlenecks. Cars won't be allowed in the area without a pass for residents. Next year, the RCA will take over the event entirely and reimagine it.

Fireworks
- Last year, there was a breakdown in the number of police officers, leading to overcrowding and safety concerns.
- Measures being put in place include restricting car access below McKinley Avenue after 3 PM and closing the lot at a certain time.
- There will be more police officers present.
- The RCA is working with commissioners and stakeholders to improve the event.

Treasurer's Report
- Revenue is at 100% due to taxes collected.
- Overall expenses will be higher due to changes in property management and repairs.
- The rainy day fund may be used for around $50,000, but the district will be fine by 6-30-25.
- $90,000 of cross charges came from the railroad, and $13,000 was spent on the fire department chief vehicle lights.

Fire Marshal Report
- Ed Carlson conducted building inspections and investigated two accidental fires (dumpster and trash barrel).
- He attended a two-day fire marshal conference.
- He did a tent inspection.

District Property Managers
- The sewer system underneath the building is being redone due to breaks in the pipes.
- The back lot will be repaved after the sewer work is completed.
- Properties along the lawn are being cleaned up, mulched, and weeded.
- Three trees were planted from the Norwalk Tree Alliance.

Pinkney Park Barn Renovation
- Early stages of planning for a renovation of the barn in Pinkney Park.
- A meeting is scheduled to figure out a better use for the space.

Roway Arts Center
- The deck behind the Roway Arts Center is being redone.
- DEEP is involved, which is holding it up.

AEDs
- A map of all AEDs in town was recently e-blasted.
- All AEDs have been serviced and are in public areas.
- Drew Seath asked if the district will manage the AED at the tennis association and paddle.

Beach Report
- Bill Nollman sent a report:
- Considerable amount of New Bayley beach developments.
- Billy Pank was hired as the assistant beach director.
- Projects:
- Rebuild of the kayak and the stand up paddle racks will need to wait until the wood chips have been put onto the new playground.
- Ongoing cleanup of the entrance area, the catalpa trees.
- New aluminum float.
- Five new Adirondack chairs, two new picnic tables.
- Status check of the sump pumps.
- Shade sale on the far left side for shade.
- Paint the pavilion railings, paint the front gate shack.
- Vacuum the drains.
- Clean the pavilion roof cutter.
- New swim lines, new sand for the beach.
- Millings for the parking lot to fill in all the potholes.

Getjoy Request
- Kirsten Harmony from Getjoy, a company based out of Norwalk, has been part of the Rowayton Farmers Market for four years.
- Request to bring a 1973 Volkswagen bus to the farmer's market and park it in one of the parking slots.
- Not cooking in the van, all products will be sealed.
- Use the van as a staging area to make it "cute and fun and whimsical."
- Seeking clarification on whether Norwalk has any issues with this plan and if any additional paperwork is needed.

Sixth Taxing District's Response
- The person who ran the farmers market for the last few years is no longer doing so.
- Jillian Shutsharawan was selected to run the farmer's market.
- The Sixth Taxing District wants to maintain "no vehicles on the grass" because the park is small and fragile.
- The city of Norwalk would only be involved with concerns to health codes.
- Jillian advised Getjoy that the Sixth Taxing District said no to the van.

- The Sixth Taxing District does not want vendors parking on the grass.

Discussion and Clarification
- Getjoy used to have a small cart at the farmer's market.
- Getjoy wants to use the van because they no longer do local deliveries.
- Concern that allowing one vendor to bring a vehicle would open a "Pandora's box."
- The decision will be left up to Jillian to manage.
- The Sixth Taxing District does not issue permits for the food aspect.
- Jillian is stricter with her guidelines.
- Getjoy can bring the vehicle but cannot park it on the grass.
- If Jillian allots an area with permeable pavers, that could be an option.
- Otherwise, Getjoy can use the cart and park the van in the parking lot behind.

Sith Taxing District
- There is no other entity like the sixth taxing district in the entire state of Connecticut.
- The speaker emphasizes the need to repeat what they are so more people know and can share it with others.
- They must obey city and state laws but can do what they want on their own.

Challenges and Community Support
- Some people went to the chamber of commerce with concerns about containers and a desire for more organic and less plastic.
- The speaker mentions "Joy of Food" being at Cisco and Nantucket every year with a big disclosure.
- They didn't do music last year but did the porch jam a year ago, aiming to support the community.
- Two years ago, they did a big thing with the Norwalk Police Department.

Fire Department and New Ideas
- The speaker suggests doing something at the fire department's barbecue.
- They express interest in bringing something new to the table.

Old School Field and Electric Bikes
- Old School Field is being re-seeded.
- Kids are riding electric bikes on the field, creating a track.
- There was a thought about putting up a barrier.

Research and Upcoming Meetings

- The speaker wants to ensure they are doing things correctly and are researching everything.
- The next meeting is June 2nd at 6:00 PM.
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