

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON  
PARKING AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Parking Authority of the Town of Southington was held on November 6, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Rebecca Davis at 4:37PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone in attendance.

**Roll Call**

Present at roll call: Mr. Myers, Ms. Zommer, Mrs. Zoni and Ms. Davis. Mr. Salmeri arrived late.

**Rebecca Davis, assuming the Chair:**

Ms. Zommer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2008 meeting. Mr. Myers seconded and the motion carried on a voice vote.

**Police Communications**

The Chair advised that she hand-delivered a letter this day to Officer Mullens advising that on November 9 the new two-hour parking restrictions can be enforced.

**Public Communications**

None

**Commissioner Communications**

The round table discussion about waivers was discussed and it was felt that this meeting was helpful. The Chair thanked the members of the Parking Authority for the additional time taken in recent months to best serve the community regarding parking issues.

The Chair announced that she would be away for one week and that Vice Chairman Salmeri would be available.

Mr. Myers reported on a meeting he attended, prior to the opening of the Cheshire Shops. He was approached there about the perception that there is inadequate parking in downtown Southington, since most lots are not visible from the main artery. Signage and/or other strategies to direct people to the municipal lots was discussed.

### **Submission of Bills and Payments**

Mrs. Zoni made a motion to pay the stenographer for the October 16, 2008 special meeting and today for a total of \$212. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zommer. This was passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion to approve a bill presented by Mr. Musto for new signage, in the amount of \$875. This was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and passed on a voice vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Riccio Way Fence**

Ms. Davis reported that she again discussed with Public Works the leaning fence issue. Following an interactive discussion, the members of the Parking Authority agreed that since winter is upon us, this should be readdressed in the spring.

#### **Dumpsters**

Mrs. Zoni did speak with Sarah Mayo about the right of way on her property. She reported that this is presently being investigated.

Mr. Myers asked about the construction time frame of the Mayo project in relation to the DelBuono project. The Chair reports that she has looked into this and it appears that there will be no overlap of these projects in relation to use of construction waivers for the temporary use of parking spaces. There was a discussion about cluster dumpster placement and/or use of a common compactor. Ms. Zommer offered an opinion on the feasibility of a common compactor. Mr. Myers feels that dumpster replacement is best accomplished as a winter project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2009 Meeting Dates**

Members of the Parking Authority agreed to continue meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30PM. Ms. Zommer made a motion that the town be notified of this meeting time for the calendar. Second was by Mrs. Zoni. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

#### **Fleet Lot Parking**

Mrs. Zoni expressed concern about whether the bank is happy with parking arrangements in the Fleet lot.

Ms. Davis has spoken with the manager at the bank and she feels that the impact of the Branford Hall students using the Fleet lot for long term parking may be causing some of their customers to change banks when they are unable to park. There was a discussion.

Mr. Myers made a motion to move forward with a public hearing for purposes of establishing a double row of restricted two hour parking (8am-6pm) in the Fleet lot; including the construction of an island and proper signage-

-cost not to exceed \$3500. Second came from Ms. Zommer. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

The Chair will arrange for a public hearing to be held on Thursday November 20 at 4:30PM.

### **Workshop Discussion**

The members of the Parking authority discussed at some length the round table meeting with public officials and commissioners at the parking waiver workshop. A suggestion was made there that perhaps a university intern could undertake a parking study. The Chair asked Parking Authority commissioners to identify specific goals for the study and this was discussed.

There is concern that parking waivers outnumber parking space. It is evident that town officials do not wish to curtail parking waivers. The study will help to identify parking patterns, so that waivers could be used to the best advantage of the downtown businesses. The study should identify patterns of use in relation to day and time, existing waivers that are not used, and project growth leading to realistic planning for future needs.

Mr. Salmeri feels that it is important for the person who does the study to have related credentials. He also felt that the Parking Authority should consider hiring a security person for purposes of enforcement of parking regulations. He says that the best idea cannot work if it is not enforced.

Mr. Myers suggests that increasing the amount of fines would make drivers think twice before they ignore parking regulations. Parking fines were discussed at some length.

Ms. Zommer made a motion to increase the fines for all parking violations from \$10 to \$25 and add this to the public hearing to be held on November 20. Mrs. Zoni seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Mrs. Zoni announced the town's "Rescue a Buck" program in which all suggestions for saving municipal money will be considered anonymously. Information will be forwarded to the Town Manager, Town Attorney and all members of the Town Council. Any education-related ideas will be forwarded to the Board of Education.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Myers made a motion to adjourn at 5:17PM, seconded by Mrs. Zoni. All commissioners were in favor of adjournment.

**Rebecca Davis, Chairperson  
Parking Authority  
Town of Southington**

