



EAST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

471 NORTH HIGH STREET • EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06512

Mayor Joseph A. Carfora



Honorable Board of
Police Commissioners

HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 7:00 PM
EAST HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
471 NORTH HIGH STREET
EAST HAVEN, CT

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chairman Dominic Balletto (presiding), Commissioner Joseph DiSilvestro

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, BOPC Commissioner Dianne Romans, Town Engineer Jonathan Bodwell

Chairman Balletto called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call – Quorum obtained

Chairman Balletto would like it noted that the full Board was invited to the subcommittee meeting for the Shoreline Greenway Trail proposed plan presentation. Commissioner Romans was present.

4. Review and discussion of traffic matters pertaining to the Shoreline Greenway Trail

Town Engineer Jonathan Bodwell presented the Shoreline Greenway Trail proposed plans for sidewalks, benches, crosswalks (some with ADA-compliant handicap accessibility), bump-outs (to slow traffic), bicycle symbols on the pavement to warn vehicles that bikes also have access to roadways, and new/updated traffic signage along Coe Avenue and various side streets.

Deputy Chief Tracy stated that the speed limit in any undesignated areas is 25 MPH by default. Chief Lennon recommends posted 25 MPH speed limit signs south of Silver Sands Road upon completion of the project.

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to approve the plan subject to changing the speed limit south of Silver Sands Road to 25 MPH upon completion of the project, the removal of SLOW SCHOOL signage (inoperable D.C. Moore Elementary School on Elliot Street), and to include an ADA-compliant crosswalk at the intersection of Cosey Beach and Coe Avenues; seconded by Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Lennon mentioned that there was also an outstanding request from several meetings ago for a crosswalk at Coe and Wilkenda which is also a bus stop. He suggested reviewing the area while the maps for the Shoreline Greenway Trail were in front of the Committee. Chairman Balletto thinks that it is a terrible idea to install a crosswalk in the middle of Coe Avenue without any other traffic slowing measures. Commissioner DiSilvestro concurs, and although he understands the concern to have a crosswalk near a bus stop, he thinks giving a mechanism for children to cross a street like Coe Avenue may be exacerbating the situation. A decision and motion will be made later in the meeting (see Item 5.c. below).

Commissioner Romans asked about the timeline on the completion of the project; Town Engineer Bodwell anticipates completion by Spring 2022.

5. Discussion of open issues deferred to the Subcommittee for review and recommendation

- a. MaryAnn Salemme (132 Burr Street) and Residents, dated July 28, 2021 (neighborhood petition and photos included) – Request for 3-way stop signs to be installed on Burr and Haines and Burr and James, and if at all possible, additionally speed bumps – *from the Monthly Meeting of August 31, 2021*

Chief Lennon presented the traffic data for this roadway. The speed trailer was posted for a month (October 18 to November 17) - approximately 18,000 vehicles traverse this roadway; the posted speed limit is 25 MPH; the average speed was 20.9 MPH with the 85th percentile* speed of 24.19 MPH; the average maximum speed was 45 MPH. Although there has been a total of 14 reported accidents in this area in the last 5 years (from January 2016), approximately ten (10) were deemed legitimate due to operator impairment, side swipes, and a roll-over which was not attributed to speed.

Chief Lennon does not recommend additional stop signs at Burr/Haines but suggests considering one at Burr/James. Presented photos as submitted by petitioners.

Chairman Balletto would like to come back to this for a decision and motion (see “e.” below).

- b. Crest Avenue (Request for NO PARKING 25FT FROM CORNER)

Deputy Chief Tracy explained that at the corner of Crest Avenue and Foxon Road (Route 80) there is a driveway going into a business mall – normally, we could install the 25FT FROM CORNER sign pursuant to the Town Ordinance without the Board’s approval, however, that would be in the middle of the driveway, and the issue is actually a bit further up along the curb of the business (Donde El Paisa Restaurant & Bakery) where vehicles/trucks park on the northbound side, obstructing the flow of southbound traffic. The request is to install a NO PARKING zone (signage and painted curb) from the corner of Foxon Road to the property line of the first residential property at 16 Crest Avenue.

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to approve the request for a NO PARKING zone from the corner of Foxon Road and Crest Avenue up to the property line at 16 Crest Avenue (the west side curb line).

- c. Lorena Venegas (Email dated September 17, 2021) – Request for crosswalk at Coe Avenue/Wilkenda intersection – *from the Monthly Meeting of September 28, 2021*

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to take no action. While discussing the Shoreline Greenway Trail project and looking at the map, it does not seem safe to put a crosswalk in the middle of the roadway - he thinks it would exacerbate the concerns people have about the bus stop allowing children to cross at this intersection. Seconded by Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Christopher Griswold, 714 Laurel Street (Undated; Received September 13, 2021) – Modified request to remove stop sign at the intersection of Laurel Street/View Terrace – *from the Monthly Meeting of September 28, 2021 and November 30, 2021*

Chief Lennon presented the traffic data for this intersection. The speed trailer was posted for 20 days surveying the side of the street without the stop sign (downgrade in to New Haven) - approximately 45,000 vehicles traversed this intersection; the posted speed limit is 25 MPH; the average speed was 29.45 MPH with the 85th percentile* speed of 35.67 MPH; the average maximum speed was 58 MPH - during rush hours speeds are frequently in the upper 40s/low 50s.

Part of the initial request was based upon trucks coming through the area which is pending a response from CT DOT to resolve the NO THRU TRUCK issue from New Haven in to East Haven.

Chairman Balletto is concerned that removing stop signs in both directions on Laurel Street would encourage speeding which is already a problem. Chief Lennon commented that the next 4-way stop is at Grannis and Laurel. He further noted that Laurel Street is the most heavily enforced street in Town – we do a lot of traffic enforcement here; it is a prime road for people to violate the law when the police are not around. A dedicated Traffic Enforcement Unit will be implemented in January 2022, and we are currently using grant funding to conduct traffic enforcement on Laurel Street and throughout Town. Neither Commissioner is comfortable removing the stop signs altogether; if anything, Chairman Balletto is inclined to make this intersection a 3-way stop. Chief Lennon feels it is an “all or none” situation, and without historical data about why there is a stop sign in one direction and not the other, it is very hard to predict potential issues and outcomes.

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion that the Board deny the specific request to remove the stop sign, however, based on the data provided by the Chief, he moves to install a STOP AHEAD and a STOP sign on the northbound side (going in to New Haven) thereby making this intersection a 3-way stop. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Upon reconvening and reviewing the intersections at Burr/Haines/James Street for clarification, Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to take no action as the traffic data does not support the installation of additional stop signs at these intersections; seconded by Chairman Balletto. All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner DiSilvestro made a motion to adjourn; Chairman Balletto adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha M. Maldonado
Clerk to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**The standard used by all municipalities when evaluating roadway speed and determining speed limits.*

[Audio recording on file – duration 54:38]