

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

**1:30 PM**

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**Members Present:** Mark Walter, Town Administrator, Mike Lester, Fire Marshal; Debbie Fiske, Recreation Director; Trooper Kristina Vivino.

**Also Present:** Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant.

**Members Absent:** Dan Johnson, Facilities Manager; Beth Lunt, DPW Director; Kara Levenduski, Horace Porter School Principal.

**Members Remotely:** Jerry James, Emergency Management Director

**CALL TO ORDER:** M. Walter called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** M. Walter MOVED to APPROVE the Agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 2.1 **Safety Committee Special Meeting Minutes 10/25/23.** M. Walter MOVED to Approve the Safety Committee Meeting Minutes 10/25/23. M. Lester SECONDED the MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3.0 1 with M. Lester Abstaining.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - 3.1 **Fire Drill.** A fire drill will need to be scheduled. Procedures on what to do during a fire drill will be sent to Town Hall staff.
  - 3.2 **Corner on Route 87 by Dam.** S. Everett asked to follow up with DOT on more signage in this area. There was another accident recently at that corner by the dam.
  - 3.3 **Route 66 and Henniquin Road/Pine Street.** DOT will not be installing midblock crosswalks in this area.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - 4.1 **Horace Porter School Security Officers, Joe Marsh & Paul Calafiore.** Joe Marsh and Paul Calafiore are both retired state troopers and are now school security officers. S. Everett said that we may need to change the times that the safety committee meets if we want the security officer(s) to be at the safety meeting.
  - 4.2 **CT State Trooper Kristina Vivino.**
  - 4.3 **Local Emergency Management Plan.** J. LaVoie reported that the updates to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) are almost complete and will be sent to DEMHS. Two sections (addressing bomb threats and incorporation of COVID-19 Lessons Learned/ AAR) still need to be completed and incorporated into the EOP.
  - 4.4 **Road Closures Tree And Flooding Related.** M. Walter asked if the Fire Department has any road closure signs or cones. He said we are receiving complaints from residents that people are just driving over the caution tape. M. Lester said that they may have some cones, but that generally they use caution tape

because it is more economical. People tend to steal the cones. There are no road closure signs. S. Everett asked if we could have a firm standard in the EOP regarding how to get the traffic light at Rte. 66 and Rte. 87 back up in running after a power outage. In the last power outage, the light was out and was not turned back on once power was restored. There was confusion on who should be contacted DOT to reset the light. He said that the town does not have authority to put any signage out at the intersection when the light is out.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** J. James said he has recontacted the Fire Chief in Columbia about speaking to the Fire Chief in Coventry about the gate at Parker Bridge.
6. **ADJOURNMENT:** M. Walter ADJOURN at 1:55 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie