



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
May 11, 2023, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Trish Deans, Larry Hannafin, Marie Lowe, Tom McGowan,
Christal Preszler, Jon Riedeman, Brett Robbins, Michael Selleck, Robert Whipple
Absent: Sue Frisch, Kate Johnson
Guest: Ruth Melville

Libby Borden called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

The minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Libby introduced new member Christal Preszler. Christal was formerly with the EDC of Newtown, CT and is now Special Projects and Grants Manager at the Norfolk Foundation. She has been helping to organize Friday Nights on the Village Green and reported that most of the Friday evenings are filled.

Libby next introduced new member Trish Deans who told the EDC her background and why she was enthusiastic to be a member of the EDC.

Brett said that the \$27,272 budget item for fiber optics was deducted from the bottom line of the budget at the budget Town Meeting. The item—Resolution No. 6— was tabled, not voted down, because the contract with Frontier had not been signed. If the contract is signed, a special town meeting can be called.

Robert said that he just inspected the new housing and Shed construction on the Battell-Stoeckel Estate. He reported it is on schedule for the summer season.

The business committee has completed the mailing list of Norfolk businesses and will be sending out a letter in the next couple of weeks inviting the businesses to a gathering at the Hub on June 27th.

Matt is soliciting names for Friends of the Meadow as well as consulting with Mike Nadeau to develop a plan for the Meadow.

The DOT has responded to the Norfolk letter and petition. A copy of the DOT letter is attached. The next step is for the DOT and Norfolk to meet.

Marie reported on the Community Association and said that 100 bags of trash were collected on April 22. She said that the Alfredo Taylor train bridge gate was going to be refurbished. Libby complimented Marie for the plantings under the Norfolk entrance signs.

In Sue's absence, Libby reported that WIN is approaching and already several events have been scheduled. She also said the Website is doing well. However, she felt that it could be more widely used. It was suggested that the EDC send out a town-wide postcard reminding people of the website and encouraging its use.

Tom said that the real estate market is still slow.

Libby reported that the EDC still has \$3,400 in its 2022-23 budget and suggested it be used for Friday Nights on the Village Green, the letter to businesses and a website mailing. Although no dollar amounts were designated, the EDC approved spending for these initiatives. The EDC budget for 2023-24 remains \$8,400.

Jon volunteered to help publicize the Friday Night on the Village Green music.

Michael reported that the program for Haystack Book festival was coming together, including a summer program that will lead up to the fall festival.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Libby and Michael



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



May 5, 2023

Matthew Riiska, First Selectman
Town of Norfolk
Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

RE: Speed of Traffic-State Route 44

Dear First Selectman Riiska,

Thank you for your letter dated March 29, 2023, regarding speeds on U.S. Route 44 in Norfolk Connecticut. I share in your concerns regarding speeding that is occurring around the state and the safety concerns this poses for all of our communities. Available data shows an increase in crashes and speeding in the state of Connecticut, and I am aware that U.S. Route 44 in Norfolk is no exception. Having grown up in Torrington, I spent many days traveling on U.S. Route 44 to get to my summer jobs in North Canaan and at Tobey Pond in Norfolk, so I saw firsthand the speeds at which drivers traveled on the roadway.

I can attest that all of us at the Connecticut Department of Transportation are dedicated to working with the Town to identify further options for reducing speeds, signage, and countermeasures on U.S. Route 44 in the vicinity identified in your March 29th letter. There have been previous communications regarding the speed limit, and signage, which we are pleased to partner with the Town on and which are summarized below.

In November 2018, at your request as First Selectman and Local Traffic Authority, the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) reviewed the speed limit on U.S. Route 44 (Greenwoods Road East) from Grant Street to Laurel Way. While it was determined that the existing 40 mph speed limit was appropriate for conditions (see attached Traffic Investigation Report No. 097-1808-01), it was noted in the report that the primary concern was vehicle speeds in the vicinity of Botelle Elementary School. To address this concern, OSTA recommended that a "School Speed Limit 30 MPH When Flashing" zone be established and that one of two crosswalks at the school entrance be eliminated. The school speed limit would only be in effect when the flashing warning lights are in operation during specific hours on school days and when there are activities outside of regular school hours. The next steps to bring this action to fruition entail the Town requesting an encroachment permit from the Department's District 4 Office for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the signs and sign supports. For assistance with this action, please contact Ronald S. Ferris, at ronald.ferris@ct.gov.

Your letter also indicated that the electronic "Your Speed Sign" had been removed. With respect to the use of the "Your Speed Sign", there is criteria that must be followed to install the sign, including obtaining an encroachment permit if placing the sign within the State highway right-of-way and using it temporarily. It is our understanding that the UConn T2 Center's Safety Circuit Rider program has coordinated with the Town to provide "Your Speed Signs" and that

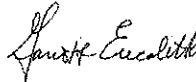
the required training on installation and use, provided by the UConn T2 Center, has yet to be completed by the Town. For more information and assistance with these signs and program coordination, please contact Melissa Evans, Safety Circuit Rider, at melissa.evans@uconn.edu.

Your letter also references the pedestrian crosswalk along U.S. Route 44 at Maple Avenue and the drive to the Village Green. The Town may consider additional countermeasures such as a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at this location. These devices can be installed by the Town under an encroachment permit and would be owned and maintained by Norfolk. Additional information on the encroachment permitting process as it relates to RRFBs can be found at the following link: [Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon](#).

More recently for this location, the Department has developed additional concepts that we believe have merit for speed reduction. We would like to arrange a meeting with the Town to review these concepts and discuss possible steps forward to bring them to fruition. Our Project Development Unit will reach out to you shortly to set up that discussion.

Please feel free to contact Mark Carlino, Engineering Administrator at Mark.Carlino@ct.gov if you have any further questions of concerns. We look forward to working with you to resolve safety concerns in Norfolk.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Garrett Eucalitto
DN: cn=Garrett Eucalitto, o=Connecticut
Department of Transportation,
email=garrett.eucalitto@ct.gov, c=US
Date: 2023.05.05 16:30:53 -04'00'

Garrett T. Eucalitto
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation