

3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4360
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Joel Faxon
Andrew Sachs
Scott Cicciari
Neil Chaudhary
Joan Plouffe

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2020

This meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 mandates and precautions and lack of appropriate space due to Election Day

MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Present: Joel Faxon, Scott Cicciari, Neil Chaudhary, Joan Plouffe
Absent: Andy Sachs

Also Present: Chief Viadero and one member of the press

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

Public Participation: none.

Police Union Participation: None. Chief Viadero noted that Dan McAnaspie is now the union president.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of Nov. 3, 2020. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief Viadero thanked everyone for the support shown at the ribbon cutting and the open house; there was a lot of participation and the weather cooperated. COVID is impacting everybody; in the past month eight or nine officers have been out 3-14 days on quarantine due to exposure. Currently there is one officer out on a 14 day quarantine, waiting on test results. Deep cleaning is done multiple times a week, staff is masked, the cars and building are being kept clean. The department is following protocols. There is no scheduled testing for first responders; a site was closed when the numbers declined but are starting to open now with the increase in cases, giving first responders priority. Staffing levels have been impacted, those out sick are covered with overtime. Compared to other towns departments Newtown is doing well and will continue to practice protocols. Relative to the vaccine, health care workers are first priority, first responders are second followed by the general public. There has been an uptick in activity as far as motor vehicle stops. With the prolonged pandemic there is an increase in mental health, drug and family dispute calls. The annual firearms qualifications are complete. Other training is virtual; the technology in the new building makes that much easier. Officers will cover Silent Light, luminaries and the tree will be lit, but no ceremony. Public can walk by to see the tree; officers will be available for safety and traffic. There will also be a festival of lights at Fairfield Hills that will be covered. There is one vacancy now and two anticipated in June. There was discussion on holding a special meeting, which will be in executive session, to vet candidates.

Rec'd. for Record 2/3 2020
Town Clerk of Newtown 2:35
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Old Business:

a.) Police Building Update: The transition to the new building began on November 9 with delivery of furniture. The move began the end of that week. 70% of equipment from old building was moved the end of November. Patrol and detective bureau operations have begun out of the new building. It's been nonstop since last week, getting IT set up, moving personnel office by office. Records division material has been moved. The public can access the front lobby for records; a phone will be available for police services that will go directly to dispatch. The evidence unit will be moved this week. The old building will be used for processing of arrestees as the booking facility in the new building is not ready and will be intricately tied to the communications divisions group. Processing is at 3 Main Street, housing at 191 S. Main if not released on bond or promise to appear. The building is 99% done, there are small punch item lists.

Correspondence: none.

New Business:

Hattertown Historic District Traffic Request: (att.) The traffic unit will do a study to see what can be improved upon. Recommendations will be brought to Fred Hurley to determine what is permissible. Enforcement is being conducted. The letter is on point. GPS and waze is taking 18 wheelers through the subject area. Tubes will be put on Poverty Hollow when weather improves. No thru trucks excludes trucks in area for business reasons, such as agriculture. A speed trailer is on Toddy Hill Road, the other one is moved around town. Chief Viadero will talk with the Chief in Monroe relative to Hattertown concerns. Commissioner Chaudhary stated the Hattertown Historic District minutes note the southbound Hattertown traffic doesn't have a stop sign, but all others do. Chief Viadero said it will be part of the traffic study. He will also connect with Fred Hurley on road striping and stop bars at stop signs.

2021 Meeting Calendar: Commissioner Plouffe moved to approve the 2021 meeting calendar as presented (att.). Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Cicciari expressed his gratitude to the Newtown PD for serving the community and hopes for continued safety. The commission concurred.

Public Participation: none.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report Commissioner Ciacciari moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the police commissioners at 7:02p.m. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Att: Hattertown Historic District memo, 11/23/20; 2021 meeting calendar

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Town of Newtown
Hattertown Historic District Commission
% Town Clerk
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470

November 23, 2020



Fred Hurley, Newtown Highway Department,

At an official Meeting of The Hattertown Historic District Commission held November 19, 2020, after a discussion on road sign and guardrail concerns an Action was unanimously voted in favor that I initiate the process with the Newtown Highway Department and Town Engineer to address our concerns.

I am communicating a request for an in person walk thru review and discussion of our Historic District with you and Town Engineer Ron Bolmer , other necessary parties, if needed, and myself as the Chairman, on behalf of The Hattertown Historic District Commission.

This would be a socially distanced meeting amongst the three parties to review and discuss various concerns within our immediate neighborhood surrounding The Hattertown Green.

Additional residents or Officers of The Commission would not be in attendance. The date and time would to be determined at your convenience .

The Hattertown Historic District surrounds a central Green, which encompasses a six way intersection in its immediate vicinity.

The District is listed on The National Register of Historic Places.

In recent years with the advent of GPS and traffic apps, we have seen an increase in traffic volume as Hattertown has become a popular bypass alternative to Route 25.

There are requests by the HHDC for various road sign improvements or changes that would be best addressed in person with a district walk through.

Those topics of request and concern are :

Review and renewal of necessary Stop Signs improvements and renewal of related white marker paint

Review of dangerous intersection road signage improvements

Request for vintage street signs at road intersections to match the last remaining original vintage sign

Request for replacement of street signs not in keeping with the historical character of the district

Request to replace metal highway guardrail barrier within the Historic District boundary that is not in keeping with the historical character with a wood alternative

Discuss future guardrail barrier replacement options within the Historic District

In tandem with a request to The Newtown Police Commission, a request for review and renewal of more prominently and effectively displayed No Thru Trucks signs at the intersection of Hattertown Road and Route 302

I look forward to working with you both to increase the traffic safety of our neighborhood while also preserving the character of our Historic District.

Respectfully,

Chris Layda Chairman, Hattertown Historic District Commission

cc : Town Clerk

cc: Ron Bolmer, Town Engineer

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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

2021 Police Commission Meetings
Conference Room
191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT
All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 1 – Wednesday **

October 5

November 2

December 7

January 4, 2022

****The first Tuesday, Sept. 7 is Rosh Hashanah, the second Tuesday, Sept. 14 is Yom Kippur**

