

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2009

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efreem Citarella, Fire Deputy Al Vigliotti, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this month.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes reported on the following:

He spoke with the Fire District regarding the testing of dry hydrants. Requests for a new hydrant have to go through the proper channels and should only be installed if the Bureau of Fire Protection deems them necessary. As long as they are then deeded to the Fire District, they will test and maintain them. There are five existing dry hydrants in question, Adams Farm Road, Blackberry Hill Road, Fieldstone Drive, Londonderry Lane and Todd Lane. The Town Engineer will be consulted as to who owns them and then a further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Mr. Byrnes reported that in Building B at the Towne Center at Somers, the fire alarm went off four times in a 24 hour period.

The fire alarm is going off four to five times a week at Open Gate. They really need to install a key system to unlock the pull box. Mr. Premuroso will talk to them about resolving this problem.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Al Vigliotti reported on the following:

Mr. Vigliotti requested that another memo be sent to the Town Board regarding his ongoing concern for the need for a hydrant in the Business Historic Preservation District. The Town has recently taken over the water hydrant zone

in Shenorock and should be responsible for one in the Business Historic Preservation District as well.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Premuroso reported on the following:

There is a concern about identifying commercial buildings with truss construction. Mr. Premuroso will be ordering signs that can be adhered to the outside of the building. This is a code requirement for new construction and must be enforced by the local authorities. The signs will indicate the type of construction and the number, as well as where it is located.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Mr. Premuroso received samples of Fire Alarm Permit stickers. Once the stickers are ordered and received, they will be sent to all permit holders. Unfortunately a freeze on spending has been put forth by the Town Board. The stickers cannot be purchased until the freeze is rescinded.

School Parking - There has been an ongoing concern about the parking situation at the schools during dismissal time. In January, a memo was sent to the Town Board regarding legislation for fire zone enforcement. A memo was received back in February indicating that the draft of the legislation was forwarded to the school district administration for input. Mrs. Schirmer sent a memo in April requesting an update. To date there has not been a response.

The Lane - In February, a call was responded to at a residence on The Lane in the Business Historic Preservation District. The resident had three appliances (heat, water and a wood burning stove) feeding into one chimney. Mr. Citarella spoke with the owner and told him that he had to hire a licensed professional to rectify the situation and bring it up to code. The owner faxed a statement to Mr. Citarella regarding the installation. A follow up call was made since the flue installation is unclear. It is understood that the stove cannot be used until Mr. Citarella inspects and approves the installation. Mr. Citarella received a letter from the owner from Steve Wolff of Wolffman's Pellet Service indicating that the wood stove installation was inspected and it does conform with the Town of Somers fire code.

Tennis Academy - There has been some concern over parking at the Tennis Academy on Orchard Hill Road. Mr. Citarella met with the owner and found the parking area to be very organized and clearly marked. He will visit the site again with Mr. Premuroso, who has been there before, to see if he feels as though the situation has improved.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Code – At the July 2007 meeting, Chapter 26 was completed and in August, Chapter 4. In October, Chapters 62, 98 and 116 were reviewed and a few changes noted. The review process for Chapter 158 began this evening. Fire lanes are a concern. Mr. Citarella will provide the Bureau with the street addresses of the commercial buildings in question, and Mr. Premuroso will visit each site and take pictures of the fire lanes. A decision has to be made as to which chapter should include the topic of dry hydrants and fire hydrants, to include color coding of all fire hydrants. The discussion will continue in July. Once completed, all changes will be forwarded to the Town Board.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning & Engineering Department
Somers Fire District