

PUBLIC SPEAKING MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 1999

6:30 P.M.

A meeting held specifically for the purpose of offering the public an opportunity to speak on topics of concern to them was held on Tuesday, November 16, 1999 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and Called to Order at 6:32 P.M. Councilors Centner, Farrell, Knight, Papale, Parisi & Rys answered present to the Roll called by Town Council Secretary Kathryn F. Zandri. Mr. Renda was detained at work. Councilors Zandri and Zappala were absent due to illnesses in their family. William W. Dickinson, Jr. was also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive requested twenty (20) minutes of the Council's time while Jack Agosta, Church Street, Yalesville requested sixty (60) minutes.

Reginald Knight stated once again that the newspaper did not announce the Public Speaking Meeting in their weekly meeting schedule. He asked the Mayor if someone could do something about that since he (the Mayor), in his past Swearing-In speeches, has encouraged the public to come forward and express their views and thoughts on the government of this town?

Mr. Parisi explained that he has spoken to the reporters many times on this matter. At times he is contacted at home on a Sunday evening by reporters asking him what the meeting schedule for the week is. He admits to them that he does not always have all of the meeting dates and times at his disposal to answer the question. He noticed the same thing Mr. Knight is referring to this morning. He cut the meeting schedule out of the paper and plans to call the newspaper tomorrow about it.

Reginald Knight stated, those who wish the opportunity to speak should be made aware of the meeting schedule at which to do so and the noon deadline by which to sign up the day before. During the election there was an awful lot of rhetoric thrown around, that is standard for everyone; it seems that everyone wants to claim credit for everything including the sun rising in the morning and it seems that everyone wants to claim credit for the Linear Trail. The article in the newspaper shows who really was the main effort on that issue; young Patrick Hayden. He was not happy with the Town ordinance prohibiting skating in the center of town so he went as far as State level and pushed and pushed until something got done. It was the first time in

this town that something got done with state and federal funds...I believe I am right, Mr. Centner?

Mr. Centner replied, I don't agree with you at all.

Reginald Knight answered, that is democracy, you have every right to disagree with me. Anyway, according to the article he did a great amount of work and should be given credit for it. With regard to the Wooding Property, I got confused at the meeting; they were talking about facades on the back sides of the buildings which front Main and Center Streets, is that what it is?

(no answer was forthcoming)

Reginald Knight continued, you are expecting the building owners to pay for those facades so if someone coming in can have something pretty to look at?

Mr. Parisi answered, that is the discussion so far, I think.

Reginald Knight answered, that is a little unfair. It is like someone telling you that you will have to paint the back of your yard because they are moving in next door. It hardly seems fair. With the whole area there...if the Town makes a paved area and some business or hotel puts up a building there, will it be freehold or leasehold? In other words, would they own the ground on which the building stood or just the building itself?

Mr. Parisi answered, that is up to the developer isn't it?

Mayor Dickinson answered, they would own the ground and have the right to construct a building on it.

Mr. Parisi stated, it doesn't affect our land.

Mayor Dickinson answered, it would be a swap of some property. Any place a building would go up would be owned by the person constructing the building.

Reginald Knight asked, we would only be drawing taxes from them and not rent?

Mayor Dickinson answered, that is correct.

Reginald Knight asked, we would own the parking lot?

Mayor Dickinson answered, that is correct.

Reginald Knight stated, we are going to pretty up a parking lot to encourage someone to come in and build a building and make a business?

Mayor Dickinson answered, in one way of expression, that is true.

Reginald Knight stated, I would like to see it made into a small park. I think there are lots of things that could be done with that rather than put in another building. I don't think you would have to bother too much with facades, all you would have to do is open the entrances better instead of having a couple of alleyways there. That could be easily done.

With regards to sidewalks in town, Reginald Knight stated, according to the old rules, any person owning any land within the Town limits, upon or adjacent, etc., etc., ...a sidewalk paved.....shall keep his sidewalk at all times in a safe and convenient condition for the use by the public, etc., etc. When Mr. Parisi told us that when he was Sidewalk Inspector, he would give them a warning ticket and if they did not comply....

Mr. Parisi interrupted to say, back in those days, that was the system we had.

Reginald Knight asked, who will give a warning ticket to the Town for the sidewalks that are in such bad condition all over the place? Will the Town get fined? Are we going to wait until someone gets hurt?

Mr. Parisi answered, the Engineering Department has been working on this. There have been several problems that they have had to wade through but they are working on it, probably not as fast as you and I would like to see.

Reginald Knight stated, I am perturbed that the sidewalk inspection responsibilities are now rolled into the Town Engineer's duties. I am afraid the man is wearing too many hats to take care of the sidewalks. It is not fair to the population.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the sidewalk inspection was handled by the Construction Inspector who retired/resigned and we hired a new person in June; Sal Sandillo. He is responsible for that amongst other duties.

Reginald Knight thought the matter was not getting enough attention.

Mr. Parisi replied, there was a situation on Church Street that I stumbled upon by accident when getting out of my car and I found that it was something that he was dealing with in reference to a sidewalk with the church. He is working on these things. You do get around town because I do see you jogging all over the place. God bless you that you can do it but I am asking that call the Engineering Department when you see something that needs attention.

Reginald Knight stated, I have been asking for a long time and my name is in the telephone book and I would be glad to show anyone where these things are.

Mr. Parisi answered, I had a note home to call you.

Reginald Knight stated, I am not going to mention any names but one gentleman recently moved into a house and on two sides of his house there is a tarmac path which is... what would you say on a rating of 1-10 Mr. Farrell, on that sidewalk in front of your house?

Mr. Farrell answered, I don't know that we should get personal about people's sidewalks. I like my sidewalk exactly the way it is and I would actually specifically request that the Town not touch it.

Reginald Knight answered, unbelievable; actually unbelievable. I think I will leave because I feel my blood pressure going up. I don't think it is worth it to bat my gums here when I am trying to talk nice. This is nothing personal; they are Town sidewalks that townspeople walk on.

Mr. Parisi stated, I thought the article about Patrick Hayden was nice; very interesting and I like Patrick very much. I have worked with him on a lot of projects and he has been very helpful on some things that I have done. I can never overlook the work that our own Councilor, Rich Centner, did on the Linear Trail. I just want to make that part of the record. In our advertising during the election... what we were saying was that we supported, we will in full support of the linear trail. I am not saying anybody else wasn't. I am saying we were in support. They could have put an ad in that said they were in support of the linear trail, too. I would never have argued with that because we, collectively, worked..... elections are sometimes rhetoric.

Reginald Knight made many statements from the audience that went un-recorded.

Mr. Centner stated, not once ever have I ever advocated or done anything with that trail that has not been by the work of the committee and that is why I did not agree with the newspaper's article for Pat. I have a lot of respect for Pat; he is doing a lot of work. He is our Chair of the

Youth A.D.A. segment of the trail as you know but the trail is not here by the work of any one individual. It is the work of our general membership. I did not really care for the way the newspaper put that out because we have seventeen other committees that have Chairs and we have from the youth to senior citizens and all the other groups the trail is served by who have done the work. They have supported the linear trail; I have not ever heard a statement from any of my colleagues here that are taking credit for it and I know not once ever have I not commended the committee, in whole, for the work that has been done; never on an individual level with any of the members.

Reginald Knight replied, I agree with you 100%; 110% sir. But there has to be someone who starts the ball rolling. There has to be someone who says, there is a problem. If that young man had not gotten input and stuck his nose in and said, "there is a problem here and we should do something about it"....and for a young man I think he did very well. No one is taking anything from the committee which has done tremendous work. I just want to make sure that young man is recognized.

Jack Agosta, stated, regarding the blight ordinance; there was a comment made in the newspaper about going on private property. I am not talking about going up to people's homes and tearing them apart because they are eighty (80) years old and can't repair the house. It is more like Goldfeder's property and the abandoned gas station (Route 5 and Christian Street). There are gas tanks in the ground and they stay there and will someday cause pollution; that is what my concern is.

Mr. Parisi stated, they (Ordinance Committee) has been working on a blight ordinance for a while.

Mr. Agosta stated, you fellas did not get out and campaign as much this year because if you had done so before this wind started blowing you would have seen some pretty lousy things in town. All the things I see can be taken care of in about two weeks, part-time. I went by the Goldfeder property today and they still have dumpsters and vehicles there. They are leaving them there to see what comes out of that building. They still have it fenced off and there is still some work going on in the building. I said to the Mayor, those people will never be able to sell their houses on that street. Mr. McNamee stated that he had a buyer for his house that backed out because of the publicity surrounding Goldfeder's.

Mr. Parisi stated, there is a lot more to the story than what that article says.

Mr. Agosta stated, my personal opinion is, if I had a house on that street I would wait on selling it. Who wants to live next door to polluted property? Have you ever driven by Love Canal in

Buffalo, N.Y.? It is a sad sight. The households were abandoned. Tear that building down, Mr. Dickinson, you can do it.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I would only point to a neighboring town that has an excess of a \$1 million judgment against it from the Coast Guard for a clean-up on property that was accomplished through E.P.A. and the reason for it was that they undertook something that they really shouldn't have and ended up with a huge clean-up bill. These things have a big price tags and if you are not careful, the local community ends up with the price tag whereas the federal government or state government should be the ones to pay for it. They are the ones with the Superfund clean-up money; they are the ones with the environmental jurisdiction, it is not local government that does these things.

Mr. Agosta stated, the assessed value of that property is \$246,000. If we took that property over, knocked the building down, we can either sell the property to someone or keep it as a park. When they clean that building now, it is going to be clean. We can turn it into a park. It ugly down there, it really is.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the information I have from D.E.P. is that the building, even though clean at this point, will still have to be boarded up. It will not be regarded as a site that is free of contaminants or pollutants and as a result of that I suspect the cost of disposal as a result of demolishing the building will be a high cost. We will take a look at what is possible but it is not an easy circumstance and unless we get a grant if it is a loan program the potential is that they may not forgive the loan. If we keep it as a park we will never get any money back on it. So any dollar we spend on it that doesn't get forgiven, we don't get reimbursed. It is a complicated arena, there is nothing simple about it, most of the programs for clean-up are for areas that are going to be returned to tax rolls; mainly commercial and industrial property. That is not the circumstance on the Goldfeder's property. It is complicated at this point. I am glad that D.E.P. and E.P.A. are doing their duty.

Mr. Agosta stated, isn't it a fact that Mary Fritz has asked the State for money to tear that building down? Isn't that the truth?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I am not aware of that. I am aware of a loan program and grant program, both of which the Town has to apply for.

Mr. Agosta asked, are you thinking about taking the property over by eminent domain and foreclose on it? We have a lot of money involved in it.

Mayor Dickinson asked, who will pay for the clean-up if we do that?

Mr. Agosta answered, I am saying, after they get done (cleaning it up). If the D.E.P. takes the buildings down.....

Mayor Dickinson stated, if D.E.P. cleans up the property, demolishes the building, the first party that is going to be very interested is the bank. There is a bank with a mortgage on it that had a right to foreclose. The bank did not want to foreclose because they don't want to own a contaminated property. At the point the property is not contaminated, I think the bank will be very interested in doing what it can with the property to recover the lost money that is represented by the note and the mortgage.

Mr. Agosta asked, if the bank does not want it, will the Town take it?

Mayor Dickinson answered, if the bank doesn't then Mr. Goldfeder still owns the property. He might want to try and sell the property thinking it would then be worth money.

Mr. Agosta stated that the Town has liens on the property for taxes so he would not be able to sell that easily without taking care of his tax obligations. The Town did not push Goldfeder to pay his taxes. We couldn't find him so obviously no one sent him a certified letter every year telling him what he owed the Town. If sent a certified letter, it would have come back.

Mr. Parisi stated, if he had any intention of paying the taxes, he would have paid it. We would not have to chase him. With the lien on the property he cannot do anything with it and did not want to do anything with it. He was happy just to let it sit there; walk away and enjoy his life in Cape Cod or wherever he is.

Mr. Agosta pointed out that no one went looking for him either. Nothing was done by the Town from the beginning.

Mr. Parisi stated, it is a problem property that no one wants to own. The minute the property is cleaned up everyone is going to own it then. They will be fighting for it.

With regards to traffic signals, Mr. Agosta had the following comments to make;

The traffic light at Colony and Ward Streets has a left turn lane when heading north but there is never an arrow to take a left turn so if you are traveling through the intersection at a busy time, you cannot take a left turn there or you take a chance if you do. When you get down to Center Street and Colony Street, there is no arrow for a left turn either. If you continue north to North

Plains Industrial Park, where Tower Square is? The same thing happens there; there is a left turn with no arrow. Maybe something can be done about these lights.

Mr. Farrell stated, I think our Town Engineer reported out at a past meeting that the State was going to re-do the lights at Center and Colony Streets. There are new poles that have recently been put into place. I suspect that is moving forward.

Mr. Parisi asked the Mayor to double check on whether or not there is something in the works for the intersections mentioned? They are difficult turns; Ward Street is a difficult left turn, depending on the time of day.

Mayor Dickinson will look into the matter. It is a State project and the lights are supposed to be timed if they haven't been so far.

Mr. Agosta next complained about a big hole in the wall of the restroom facility on the first floor near the Probate Court (Rm #112) that has been there for three years now. He has been involved in probate matters for that length of time and has been in and out of the Town Hall for such matters and has noticed that the hole still remains. That is the problem with this town; there a maintenance problem. Everything is placed on the back burner because it is not important. That is a sign of how the Town is. It is just like the dirty walls in the Council Chambers that Mr. Sheehan had to continue complaining about for six months before something was done.

Mr. Parisi stated, with all due respect, what a good citizen would do is maybe pick up the phone if it has been there for a while and call someone or call the highway department and let them know that these things exist. They can use all the help they can get.

Mr. Agosta stated, they just like to say that all the guys that come up here (to the meetings) are all pains in the neck. When I called to ask if the Mayor was going to be at the meeting tonight the secretary (in the Mayor's Office) asked me my name and I responded, "yeah, old pain in the neck" because that is what they think of you. When I went down to Goldfeder's I went through the stop sign the first time because I did not even know there was one there. I was out in the middle of Chimney Hill Road.....do you know how fast they drive there? I realized I was in the middle of the road. I drove home and made a phone call to the Mayor's Office and told them about the difficulty in seeing the stop sign due to the overgrowth. One week later the condition was still the same. I made another phone call, she said she would take care of it right away and would look into it. I went back that day and they had unscrewed the sign and put a pipe in so that you could see it. It was a dangerous situation and it took a week to fix it. We have people working for the Public Works and Police Departments.

Mr. Parisi stated, I have call a lot of times and I have called up long before I was a Councilman. It is just something that you do. It is whether you want to do it or not.

Mr. Agosta stated, someone made a comment in the newspaper during the campaign just to sway votes about the basketball hoop that is down on the ground at West Side Field. The person said that there was \$10,360.00 in the budget to repair them all. Well that \$10,360.00 was in the 1997-98 budget. There was nothing put in the budget for 1998-99 or 1999-2000. That was three years ago.

Mr. Parisi sated, that was a capital item.

Mr. Agosta stated, the person who brought it up was just trying to make Mr. Zandri look bad, that is all it was.

Mr. Parisi stated, if it is a capital item in the budget, it does not have to be expended that year. The money was put aside in the budget for that reason.

Mr. Agosta replied, the person who wrote the letter said that the money was put in this year's budget. Someone had told him that....someone gave the gentleman information.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I don't know about the letter but I do know that I spoke with Mr. Dooley directly. The reason the hoops were down was because they were being replaced. That is why they were down.

Mr. Knight responded off microphone and the comments were not picked up by the recorder.

Mr. Agosta stated, three years ago \$10,300 were put in the budget and they are just getting around to fixing them now. Also, the park bench at Community Lake is not a handicapped accessible park bench. I spoke to Mr. Spiteri (Mike) myself. The bench has two hooks on the side, the seat is broken off...it is not a handicapped bench. It was campaign time, it was political and that is all.

Mr. Parisi stated, that is not the point of this meeting. This meeting is not to discuss campaign lies or truths or whatever. We could go for a good week on that stuff.

Mr. Agosta next talked about the Wooding/Caplan property. Did I hear the Mayor correctly? He wants to spend \$2.5 million of Wallingford's money to fix our property up for developers? Is that what he is going to do?

Mr. Parisi answered, it depends on how you want to look at it.

Mayor Dickinson answered, I don't think I ever used a figure; \$2 million or \$2.5 million. It was mentioned at the meeting but it is anyone's guess what the figure will be. It is basically the cost of making public improvements which are streetscape improvements. That is what we are talking about. Just as we have put streetscapes on Main Street and Quinnipiac Street and Center Street. I don't know exactly what that is, it may be \$2 million. I don't know that I used that figure, I think it was used by others at the meeting.

Mr. Agosta stated, I don't understand how what ever is going to go in the middle of that property is going to help the center of Town area when no one is going to see it except the people who have apartments there, the people who will be living there. How is anyone going to see that the property was cleaned up?

Mr. Parisi stated, if we are a little patient and wait for the architect's rendering, which we have approved, I think perhaps then it will be a lot easier to judge then whether the project will be attractive or not. Right now some of us are getting upset about something that is truly more of a concept than a reality. We should wait and see what the plan is.

Mr. Agosta stated, if a developer wants to go in there and do something for us, for themselves, let them buy the land from us and let them do it. Why should we have to do anything...

Mr. Parisi answered, we are not going to do anything I don't believe for anyone else. It is going to be more of a partnering project where we do something for ourselves and the others do something for themselves and together we come out with something that benefits all of us. That is a little bit different than what we are used to but hopefully it will be something good.

Mr. Agosta felt that the area would be good for senior housing, apartments.

Mr. Knight responded, we looked into that with the senior center. The people do not want to drive in and out of the narrow driveways. They don't like the traffic uptown and driving the little narrow alleyways. The lights are confusing to them. They told us point blank to forget about the idea and we did.

Mr. Agosta replied, it would be nice for elderly people who don't have a great deal of money. They could have low income housing like they do at Gaylord.

Mr. Knight responded, Jack, they don't want to live there.

Mr. Agosta stated, we are talking about attracting people uptown. That could be the same thing; does anyone want to go up there and shop behind those stores?

Mr. Parisi stated, again, we are talking about something that we don't know what it is going to look like.

Mr. Agosta stated, we have a lot of things going on in this town; school renovation, senior center, golf course.

With regards to the Senior Center proposal; Mr. Agosta stated how Architect Sam Sargent, at the last Council meeting, stated how the rear of the proposed new senior center is going to be constructed so that it is full glass. He stated that he wanted the room to overlook the lake. The lake is not even there. He made a statement about something that was not even true at all. He is trying to sell this plan to the town for \$12,000 and he is talking about a lake that is not even there. It is just an observation.

With regards to Martin Luther King Day, Mr. Agosta stated, on November 25, 1963 I was out on Long Island managing a store. The company closed the store between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. because it was John F. Kennedy's funeral. I went home and watched it on T.V. and then I went to church. There was not a person in the church but me but I didn't care. I wanted to go to church that day because I felt better for doing it. That was my choice. Iris made a comment that there were very few people in church on Martin Luther King Day. For many, many years I would not go into any other church but the Catholic Church, that was the way we were brought up. Until it changed; until Pope John came along and he started changing the church. But until then I would not go into another church. We have no right to decide that people don't care because they don't go to church or attend a ceremony or they go shopping. Supermarkets are open every day except Easter Sunday and Christmas and on Christmas Day I don't go to church on Christmas. A lot of people do not go to church on Christmas. We don't think about Jesus Christ all day long. So now you are judging people by what they do on Martin Luther King Day. I don't think that is right. People have used the fact that retail stores are open as an excuse not to honor Dr. King. Corporations and other businesses are profit-driven operations. Government is not. Government has obligations to set standards for industry. Don't you believe industry may use Wallingford's decision as a tool during negotiations? A suggestion to swap days is fine, that is if what the unions have stated is true, that the Town has not offered it to a negotiations session for most of the fifteen years. I looked in the newspaper and saw "Wallingford Symphony Orchestra" and I read the article. Mayor Dickinson gave a speech, wearing a hat and beard, it was a Lincoln portrait by Copeland. The Mayor thinks very highly of Lincoln but the Mayor insists that the unions swap Lincoln's Birthday for Martin Luther King Day. I don't understand that at all. That is the only offer you gave them (unions). I don't

understand that at all. He thinks very highly of Lincoln but he wants to swap the days. There is Presidents Day but the Town gave the employees that holiday along with Lincolns. No one just took the holidays, the Town gave them to the employees during past negotiations. That should not be held against the union members now. Years ago the municipal workers did not make much money. They had job security and good benefits but did not make good money.

At this time the recorder malfunctioned while the secretary was absent from the room.

When recording resumed Mr. Agosta was stating, "They take off out of work for a couple of hours and they go to....."

Mr. Parisi interrupted to say, no, no, it is at lunch time.

Mr. Agosta continued, no one controls the (undistinguishable) department. No one controls Henry McCully (Director of Public Works) every minute of the day, he can do what ever he wants.

Mr. Parisi stated, he is a department head and supposedly responsible for himself.

Mr. Agosta stated, the Mayor can go, he works 100 hours a week anyway.

Mr. Parisi stated, you know the structure; you were a store manager. No one watched you every minute of the day.

Mr. Agosta stated, for anyone to say, like this guy over here said to them, "well, they can take it off, that is good enough. If they want to take it off so bad, let them take it off and don't get paid for it." That was a sarcastic remark.

Mr. Parisi answered, we cannot control that Jack, I wish we could. That is beyond us.

Mr. Agosta stated, twice you (Mr. Parisi on behalf of the Council) asked the Mayor to talk to the unions to negotiate Martin Luther King Day. You also said, off the record, that you would like an update on the problem. The Mayor stated that it was not his position to do that. I really believe that if the Mayor had approached everyone and talked to them, down to earth, and asked for their help in resolving this issue, it may have been resolved. The only thing the people in town know is what they read, after the fact. That is Monday morning quarterback. As far as I am concerned we have a Town Council that can only recommend to the Mayor that he do something. He can do what ever he wants in this Town. Last time the Council voted the

budget like it was just a bunch of numbers. If the Council does not want to pass the budget the Mayor vetoes it and gets it passed anyway. He can do what he wants.

Mr. Parisi replied, that is not really true. That is your perception, that he gets everything that he wants. Realistically, I can tell you that is not the case. As far as the budget goes, I have spent many years in this room until 4:00 a.m.; three weeks, five nights a week. At the end of those three weeks we cut \$200,000 which is like a flea on an elephant's trunk. It was amazing. Then we said, "the hell with it" and we usually just passed the budget. There were too many nights like that with insignificant findings and conclusions in the budget. So what we did was streamline the process and we go through the budget but we do it on our own. We have open night for the public to question the department heads.

Mr. Agosta stated, there is \$500,000 in the budget; half a million; to fix sidewalks. They are not fixing sidewalks. There are some sidewalks in town that seniors cannot walk on; Minnicipiac and Ward Streets. There is no plan to fix them.

Mr. Parisi stated, there is a plan. At a previous meeting it was discussed that they were having trouble with contractors. What are we going to do if we are having trouble with a contractor; shoot the guy? He has to resolve the problems before he can move forward. They supposedly have solved the problems but it is now winter and he may have to wait until spring.

Mr. Agosta asked, has any effort been made to get an in-house crew for sidewalk work?

Mr. Parisi stated, Carmen DiBaresca was the man who did most of our sidewalk work. I am not going to tell you why it stopped but I will guess that it was.....he did a lot of catch basins and wall work; he was an excellent mason. I don't know if there is no one available anymore or if it was just not financially.....

Mr. Agosta stated, it seems as though these issues seem to be in limbo and no one follows up on them.

Mr. Parisi stated, that private sector is nice. When Rich Centner walks out into his production office and says, "look we are going to do it this way", it is changed. When Steve Knight goes out in his office and says, "we are changing this", it is changed. But when the Town tries to do something like that we have so darned much red tape that we have to walk through that it is not done that fast.

Mr. Agosta stated, but I bet if I visited Mr. Centner's operation I would see that it is some place because he is on top of it; he is proud of it. Just like Steve Knight; he is proud of the senior center, the way it is going to look and that is great.

Mr. Parisi stated, we will have to get one of them involved in sidewalks and maybe they will straighten that out.

Mr. Agosta pointed out that there is a sign heading south on Colony Street near the Yankee Silversmith that says, "1998 Softball Champions". It is still there.

Mr. Parisi asked, why would you want to take it down?

Mr. Agosta stated, I think it should be pulled out of the ground because I think someone made a comment. Just like the muffler that someone saw out on Route 68; they called up the Town just before Halloween so no one would get hurt. They would not stop on Route 68 to get out and get it for fear they might get hurt or killed.

Mr. Parisi replied, no, leave it up. It might make someone happy.

Mr. Agosta asked Mr. Parisi to take a ride with him someday and he will show him things that need doing. If you travel from Colony Street to Route 68 and then go down to Ward Street and Quinpiac Streets, you will see what I am talking about. There are still cones out there because they haven't finished up.

Mr. Parisi stated, that is because they are waiting for the poles from the people who are producing them. They do take a long time.

Mr. Agosta stated, I have accomplished nothing. Every thing that I have brought up this evening, I am hearing a reason why not to do something about it. I wrote a letter to the Mayor once about the personalized bricks that I bought and how nine months later they had not been put in yet. It was around Martin Luther King Day and I very nicely told him that I did not think he was racist. He wrote me back a flowery letter thanking me for my comments. A year later we are in the same position again and this year we are still going to be in the same position. I am afraid that once this starts going again and Roger Vann (NAACP) starts getting huffy and the skin heads and the KKK start coming down here, it is not going to be nice. And don't tell me it won't happen.

Mr. Knight responded, are we going to let those people run our town? Not me! They are not going to run this town!

Mr. Agosta stated, when we had the ceremony to erect the Menorah on the green, I called the police department to ask how much protection they were providing since there were threats that some skin heads were going to show. They told me they would provide the normal amount of protection. I wanted to go down and show respect and couldn't because I was afraid.

Mr. Centner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rys.

VOTE: Renda, Zandri & Zappala were absent; all others, aye. Motion duly carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Zandri
Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Robert F. Parisi
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

12-16-99
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

12-16-99
Date