

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall on Monday June 19, 1939 at 8:00 P.M.

Present:

Dennis G. Homan, Supervisor

Henry M. Zaleski,
Joseph V. Kelly,
Fred H. Butcher, Justices of the Peace.

Lester M. Emmett, Town Attorney and Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways were present.

Supervisor Homan called the meeting to order and explained that the meeting was called to discuss the parking situation in the business section of the Town of Riverhead and advised that anyone who wished, could be heard on the subject at this time.

Mr. Fred J. Alexander, President of the Kiwanis Club of Riverhead addressed the Board and explained in detail the parking situation as it now exists, pointing out the difficulties of parking cars and the traffic hazards which the present parking situation creates, and further stated that if business expects to grow and if the Town wants to invite new business and new people, surely something must be done in regard to our parking facilities. He advised the Board that he became interested in this matter only through Civic pride and service, and that on last Thursday evening he attended a meeting of various Civic minded people representing the Rotary Club, American Legion, Womans Club, Garden Club, Sound Avenue Grange and the Kiwanis Club and requested that a copy of the minutes of that meeting be read.

Mr. George Cushman read the minutes of the aforesaid meeting as follows;

Minutes of Joint Meeting of Parking Area Committees of the Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Woman's Club, Garden Club, American Legion, and Sound Avenue Grange, held at 8:00 P.M., June 15th, 1939.

The Meeting was called to order by H.R. Talmage who called for the election of a Chairman and Secretary. Upon motion duly made and seconded, F.G. Alexander was elected Chairman and George Cushman Secretary.

Chairman Alexander read a statement from Attorney R.C. Smith which set forth a procedure by which it was thought the important parking problem confronting Riverhead Town could be solved. Mr. H.R. Talmage was asked to read a resolution prepared by Attorney Smith to be presented to the Town Board which petitions the Board to acquire an area recommended therein for a parking space.

Upon motion by Mr. H.R. Talmage and seconded by Mr. Walter F. Luce, it was voted that those present sign the petition for the Organizations they represented, and urge it's adoption at the Special Meeting of the Town Board to be held June 19th, 1939.

Mr. L.Y. Robinson being the sole negative vote stated that he was opposed to the question on two grounds. First, that it did not go far

enough that is, that property should be acquired on both sides of the Peconic River from Peconic Avenue to McDermott Avenue and that a park be laid out with roads, etc., which would doubtless alleviate any problem of parking. Second; that he doubted that any parking problem existed and that he favored congestion in that it would tend to develop other areas in the town as business districts. Upon the above grounds he declined to sign the petition.

Chairman Alexander spoke of the seriousness of the problem and the timeliness of joint action and urged all Organizations to be at the Town Board Meeting, June 19th, 1939.

The Meeting adjourned.

George Cushman, Secretary.

A petition signed by representatives of the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Woman's Club, Garden Club, American Legion, Sound Avenue Grange and Brookfield Grange was submitted to the Town Board, petitioning them to call a special election of the electors of the Town of Riverhead and at said election submit to the electors the proposition for acquiring the land therein described for a parking space, public park and other suitable Town purposes. The petition was placed on file.

A communication addressed to Mr. Henry R. Talmage from the Goldy Realty Co. Inc., was read in regard to parking space in the rear of their property opposite the Capital Theater on Main St., stating that they are willing to co-operate in any manner for the betterment of the Town. The Communication was placed on file.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstien inquired if the Committee has asked the various property owners what they would take for their properties.

Mr. George Cushman advised that a year or so ago when the different parking Committees in conjunction with a Town Board Committee were working on the matter, various properties in that vicinity could be obtained by lease for a nominal price, however he felt that if those various property owners would allow the Town to use the properties in question without charge for a period of four years for a parking field, there is no doubt but what public favor would be strong in urging the Board to acquire the said property for a permanent parking field.

Mr. Fred J. Alexander requested the Board to ask those present for their opinion as to the necessity of more parking facilities. He spoke of the possibilities of the River front, the Yacht Club and the mooring of boats if the land was developed into a parking field.

Supervisor Homan spoke of the possibility of building a County road over the Peconic River from Peconic Avenue to McDermott Ave. He advised that he had spoken to the Supervisor of Southampton concerning the proposition and asked for his cooperation in the matter, further stating that the project could be built from the Motor Vehicle funds received by the two Towns. If this could be accomplished, he stated it would not only provide adequate parking facilities but open up new properties and be a great benefit to both Towns.

Mrs. M.N. Ammann addressed the Board stating that she felt that it would be too difficult and expensive to acquire the properties as outlined by the Supervisor. She further stated that she spoke in behalf of the Woman's Club and that they approved of the aforesaid petition submitted to the Board.

Mr. Henry R. Talmage addressed the Board, stating that last year when the various committees were working on the matter of acquiring the properties for a parking area, everyone was sympathetic with the idea, however they were unable to obtain suitable roadways in and out of the property, consequently the matter was held in abeyance for a while. This year the committees have gone at it in a different way. He stated that the parking situation is going to be a permanent problem if something is not done in the near future. He approved of the Supervisor's suggestion of building a highway along Peconic River, however he did not know how easily this could be obtained, but in any event, he stated that Riverhead needs all the parking areas it can possibly obtain. He pointed out at length to the Board of the necessity of acting as soon as possible on this important question for the benefit and growth of the whole Town.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstien, Attorney representing Mr. Sylvester Cavanaro addressed the Board and reviewed the parking situation in the Town, calling attention to several ways in which to solve the parking problem, such as parking meters, more rigid parking regulations and possibly better development of our present parking areas. He stated that there are other properties in the Town besides the area proposed in the aforesaid petition. He further stated that he did not feel that the present parking emergency was as great as it is made out.

There being no one else wishing to be heard at this time, Supervisor Homan thanked those present for their interest in the matter and assured them that the Town Board would consider the matter very carefully and do everything possible to solve the problem.

Supervisor Homan, ^{and Town Attorney requested} ~~was~~ instructed by the Town Board to contact all property owners who have suitable parking areas near the business section of the Town.

A communication was read from the Wading River Civic Association requesting the Board to prohibit parking on Sound Road between the north boundary of the property of Barnett Raffé and the Creek Road, on Oak Street, on Central Avenue and on the North Side Road between the hours of 9 A.M. and 6 P.M. in the months of June, July, August and September.

A delegation from Wading River was present at the meeting and spoke in favor of the above matter after which it was referred to the Police Committee, Highway Committee and the Supt. of Highways.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned.

Harry J. Kratoille
Harry J. Kratoille, Town Clerk.