

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee (PH&S) of the RTM was held on January 12, 2009, in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chair; Philip Weyhe, Vice Chair; James Patrick; Dr. Robert C. George; Susan Maguire; Susan LeHan; Tom Valentino; Rob Cardone; and Mary Guimond, Clerk.

Members absent: Penne Weicker; Bryan Stephens; and Tony Imbimbo

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Schoonmaker. The minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting were approved without change. The schedule of meetings for 2009, previously provided by Chair Schoonmaker, was approved without change as well. Information contained on the committee list was verified. Ms. Maguire, who sits on the Rules Committee, informed us that Penne Weicker remains a member of PH&S although her name was not included on RTM Committee list.

The Leash Ordinance was then discussed. Such ordinance is not on the RTM agenda yet. Chair Schoonmaker indicated that she and Ms. Guimond had attended a TGS&A meeting on the subject in December. A dog run was discussed at this meeting but Town Counsel had indicated there were liability and insurance issues associated with a dog run. TGS&A members indicated the town had no funds to create a dog run. Mr. Valentino volunteered to talk with the town of New Canaan to understand how the dog run at Waveny is maintained and funded. He will send his report to Chair Schoonmaker. Both Ms. LeHan and Mr. Patrick had heard that Cherry Lawn Park had been designated by the donor to be open to dogs. Chair Schoonmaker agreed to research such a designation. In addition, Chair Schoonmaker will discuss with TGS&A whether time designations for use of leashes had been considered or would be considered. Such time designations, for example, use of leashes prior to 8:00 am at certain parks, may provide a good compromise for opponents of the new law.

Mr. Weyhe motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Guimond, Clerk