

Present: 19 Participants

Meeting commenced at 6:30 pm

**Louis Casolo-City of Stamford Engineer** gave a brief overview on the BLT collapse. Lou mentioned that the Department of Public Health & Safety also gave an extensive overview to the Board of Representatives. You can go to the Board of Representatives Web site and get an in-depth overview relating to the BLT collapse. Lou emphasized that there is an ongoing investigation and that they understand the cause of the failure.

**Question:** Shouldn't the city inspectors have been involved in checking prior to cement being poured? Where was the City inspectors?

**Answer:** Mr. Gami should be answering this question since he is with the building department but the building department has a requirement that work be done by Special Inspection. The ongoing investigation includes getting to understand the extent to what was done and what was missed. **Henderson & Rogers were the special inspectors hired by BLT**

**Question:** Are there plans to evaluate other buildings?

**Answer:** The Building Department is working with Public Safety with an on-going investigation

**Bharat Gami-Chief Building Official** shared a 3-part presentation that included the functions & responsibilities of the building department, South End and issues of concerns

**1. Building Department Background (brief overview)**

- a. Review and process building permits
- b. Building code enforcement based on complaints from many sources
- c. Incident management , i.e. building collapse someone is on sit 24/7 to investigate

**2. South End** is the most active piece of land in Stamford with 2-different areas

- a. Old Industrial now Harbor Point & the Historical Neighborhood both of which need to co-exist
- b. There are a number of projects in the South End that are classified as:
  - i. Completed –BLT projects
  - ii. In progress-Charter Communications, Transportation Center Master Plan
  - iii. Approved-P3 & P6
  - iv. Proposal Stage-projects that are in the pipeline.
- c. South End consist of a Coastal Area that require special regulations on what can and cannot be built.
- d. Many studies have been conducted on the South with the most recent study conducted back in 2018 The Stamford South End Study

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3. **Issues of concerns** regarding the partial slab collapse in which there is an ongoing investigation
4. Bharat explained the 3 failure categories:
  - a. Distress-minor irregularities that are unsightly but don't pose any danger
  - b. Damage-Major irregularity that needs immediate action
  - c. Deterioration-irregularities that are unavoidable and happen over time

**Question:** How is it that BLT is allowed to continue to do construction?

**Answer:** The building department do not have the authority to say no since their permits are registered with the state.

**Question:** Who is supervising the projects?

**Answer:** If it is relating to water then it would be engineering, Land Use would be Ralph Blessing

To reach the Building department you can either call 203.977.4164 or e-mail:  
[buildingdep@stamfordct.gov](mailto:buildingdep@stamfordct.gov)

**Sue Halpern -chair of the South End Local Historic Study Committee** gave an overview of the South End History and what is currently left. Sue mentioned that the committee is at the point of hiring a preservation consultant to evaluate the significance of what's left and what can be saved. The committee meets every **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of the month and you can access information by going to the **City of Stamford Website-South End Local Historic Committee**

**Question:** How is this any different from the District that was created back in 1986?

**Answer:** The National Register doesn't have any teeth as you have to work with the property owners to maintain the Historical Structures.

**Question:** Are the Historical properties recorded on the National Register untouchable?

**Answer:** No, there are no steadfast laws in Connecticut to prevent demolition of Historical buildings but there is a process you can go through CEPA (Connecticut Environmental Protection Act) that will offer some protection once presented to the Connecticut State Board.

**Ted Jankowski Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare** mentioned there were a number of concerns that came into their office about the collapse of the BLT building and emphasized that the investigations are ongoing. Ted gave a number of updates on what is offered by the Department of Public Safety, Health and Welfare:

- You can Text 911 to the communication center
- Serious crimes has reduced by 6% but there is an increase in crimes of taking catalytic converters

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- Addressing mental health issues which has been reduced to 25%
- A Social Service Worker is embedded at the Stamford Police Department to go over cases
- Partnering with the Liberation House with a program call Shoulder- to -Shoulder
- A New program call Addiction Team to respond when someone overdoses which is also partnered with the Liberation House
- Air Monitoring program **Purple Air** to monitor fine particulate matter
- Working with establishments and Board of Representatives regarding noise Adjustments

**CAPTAIN Tom Barcello-Stamford Police Department** mentioned that there has been an uptick of stealing catalytic converters by going under cars and using a Milwaukee cut off tool. These incidents seem to happen early in the morning. Captain Barcello mentioned doing things proactive to prevent crimes would help such as motion lights. A 5K road race was scheduled for Sunday March 13th in the South End. Captain Barcello emphasized to be mindful when the warm weather hits as more activity will commence, some bad and some good.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**