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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Selectman Announces Opening of New Cos Cob Parking Lot and Pedestrian Bridge

(Greenwich, CT). September 17, 2002 ...Richard V. Bergstresser, First Selectman of the Town of Greenwich, today officiated at ribbon-cutting ceremony on Suburban Avenue in Cos Cob to announce the opening of a new 19-space parking lot and a new pedestrian bridge, which connects the Cos Cob Library to the Cos Cob School.

“We are here to celebrate the major construction and safety improvements in Cos Cob and to thank the many people whose participation was critical in ensuring that this project would come to fruition,” said Mr. Bergstresser.

“Not only have we have added parking for customers of shops and businesses, but people now can walk from the school to the library without crossing a single driveway. In addition, new sidewalks and crosswalks on Suburban Avenue and Putnam Avenue help make Cos Cob much safer for pedestrians.”

Participants in the Cos Cob improvement project included: the Department of Public Works; White Contractors; the Selectman’s parking and traffic committee; planning and zoning; Cos Cob school ‘s administrators, faculty and PTA; the Board of Education; the BET and RTM; town officials; merchants, Cos Cob residents and the Ferraro family, who originally owned the property on which the parking lot and bridge were built.

Mr. Bergstresser and student representatives from each Cos Cob School class along with Cos Cob PTA President Laura Downes, cut the ribbon to open the parking lot and the pedestrian

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bridge. Cos Cob Principal Gerry Petrizzi led the students, parents and other attendees in a parade across the bridge to the Cos Cob Library, where tours and refreshments were offered.

“This project may be a civics lesson in how you can make something very worthwhile happen in a municipality when you have all the right people focusing on it,” said Mr. Bergstresser. “Cos Cob has dedicated citizens who regularly communicate with each other, know how to build consensus, and can work through the proper channels to reach a goal.”

In 1995, when the Cos Cob Library purchased property to build a new library, many local leaders realized that the Ferraro property could link the Library to the School, and the town purchased it in 1997. The Ferraro family used the land as a storage yard for a landscaping business. Mr. Ferraro built the stone walls along the brook. His children attended Cos Cob School and after school they would jump over the brook to help their dad at work.

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