

Chester Main Street Project Committee
Regular Meeting, August 12, 2014
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1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Chester Meeting House, 4 Liberty Street, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Members in attendance and seated were Leslie Strauss, Chuck Mueller, Steven Tiezzi, John Schroeder, Michael Joplin. Guests included First Selectman Ed Meehan, Mel Seifert (Planning & Zoning) and Susan Wright and Felise Cressman (Economic Development).

3. Discussion of D.O.T. Plans for Main Street Bridge Replacement

Chairman Joplin asked for comments relative to the D.O.T.'s 90% completion plans for the Main Street Bridge Replacement. He noted he had discussed these plans with Brian Kent who was on vacation this week. Mr. Kent had indicated he thought a light was missing at the corner Main going down Water Street between the Jansen and Cook buildings. There should be a period lighting unit there next to the crosswalk.

Steven Tiezzi noted the alignment is pretty consistent with the Master Plan. He hasn't had a chance to look at the details.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Streetscape Plan (Sheet LDS1) encompassing everything the Committee talked about at street level. He reviewed the street furniture and lighting on both the east and west side of Main Street. He mentioned the reason there is no decorative light between Jansen and Cook buildings is because there is a decorative light on the corner of the Cook building. Its free standing set back a little. He felt this was a 99.9% representation of what the Committee submitted back in April to TranSystems. Meehan noted one crosswalk was called a "decorative crosswalk" and also a "stringer walk". He wasn't sure what the difference is. Brian Kent should probably look at this, as well as someone from D.O.T. First Selectman Meehan noted the plans include the cobblestones, the Main Street streetscape, notes on salvaging the granite curbing and removing it to the Town Garage. Meehan noted the geometry on both sides looked good as well as the angle parking.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the Survival Guide that is being worked on by Economic Development for the Main Street Bridge Replacement. He noted D.O.T. is currently working on rights-of-way for temporary and permanent easements as well as a couple of takes with Jansen and Johnson. D.O.T. is also working with WPCA and the Town Engineer on contract documents for the scheduling of the sewer

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line. They are also working with DEEP regarding waterway permits. The biggest issue is with the flood way permit. Their model shows the new bridge will raise the flood level. Meehan noted it had been anticipated to hold a stakeholders meeting in August, but D.O.T. wants to move it to October. They need to have all their permits and rights-of-way in place before the end of the calendar year in order to put this out to bid. There is a slim chance it will not go out until 2016. There was discussion about one of the buildings that will have to remain vacant.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the utility plan (Sheet UTL1). The utility work starts in front of Simon's transferring wires to a temporary pole in front of 6 Main. The permanent line will run over to in front of the package store. Two utility poles are coming out (one on the bridge and one around the corner in front of the Jansen building). Two trees have been added in the landscape area. There was a brief discussion regarding moving utility poles in the parking lot of the package store.

Chuck Mueller noted the end blocks were 18" x 24" and not 18" x 18" (Sheet S50). He noted the Committee had a lot of discussion regarding the end blocks. He also noted the 24" face allows more opportunities for identification, signage, or Town Seal, etc.

Steven Tiezzi reviewed sheet S45 and the location of the decorative light fixture. Meehan noted that could be dangerous for snow plows. Tiezzi noted it was an awkward spot. Should this location be moved? Mr. Kent to review.

Locations of benches and bike racks were reviewed. Bike rack locations should be reviewed by Mr. Kent.

First Selectman Meehan will find out when D.O.T. wants Committee comments.

There was much discussion regarding sidewalk elevations and how the new bridge will meet the existing sidewalk. Meehan suggested finding out what the curb reveal is at the end of their project and how does it match with our plans to establish a 4" curb reveal and leave the sidewalk height where it is at the buildings.

EDC will forward a copy of the Survival Guide to Leslie Strauss for Committee distribution. Susan Wright briefly reviewed the Survival Guide and how it will help the merchants prepare for this project. She also noted they are planning a public meeting in September to review what can be done to assist the merchants, landlords and

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tenants. Signage, public parking, pedestrian way are items to be considered.

Chairman Joplin noted this Committee should have a liaison between the contractor as well as the merchants to keep everyone up to date on construction progress. Communication is very important. There also needs to be communication with vendors about deliveries.

4. Discussion of Connecticut Water Company Water Line Replacement for Length of Main Street

Chairman Joplin noted the Town found out about two weeks ago the Connecticut Water Company has decided to replace the water line on Main Street from Route 154 to Route 148 as a result of a private study group's recommendation. They had thought about relining it, but the study indicates it should be replaced. All the lines, laterals, fire hydrants will be replaced. Timing of this project is not known as of yet.

First Selectman Meehan noted this came to light at a recent utility meeting where John King noted they are thinking of replacing the line as a result of a study done back in December. Meehan noted at the January 28th meeting, the Committee talked about pushing the project out one year. There was a discussion about utilities and John King mentioned at that meeting the Connecticut Water Company had not been contacted. The time line was pushed out from 2014 to 2015. Meehan noted the conclusions of the study were inferred at this utility meeting with CWC and WPCA.

First Selectman Meehan will communicate with the CWC relative to when they are planning this project and can it coincide with our project. It was agreed its important these projects happen simultaneously.

There was a brief discussion regarding sewer laterals, easements, rights-of-way, etc.

5. Distribution of 70% Plans for Main Street Phase 1.

The 70% Plans for Main Street Phase 1 were distributed. Chairman Joplin noted he had asked for the plans so members could review them for a couple weeks before the August 26th meeting. It was noted the Committee would like 5 full sets of plans.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the status of the Inland Wetlands application. The IWA did not have a quorum last Monday so will be holding a special meeting on August 18th. He also noted the Town Engineer has reviewed the plans which were revised to address concerns. An expense item that has come up is a stormceptor which is

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a big chamber with baffles inside at the end of a drainage system to pick up leaves, sediments, salts, sands, etc. This is about a \$30,000 item suggested by Inland Wetlands as a water quality measure. Meehan noted he will talk to Inland Wetlands again about this and see if a modification or conditional approval could be obtained depending on the field conditions. The return on the investment is not that great.

Meehan reviewed the area in front of the Kranyak property which is a difficult area. He noted he meant with the owner of the Stark Agency who wanted to make sure that any construction damage is replaced.

First Selectman Meehan noted he and Brian Kent have met with Mrs. Gates. They reviewed a new decorative fence, a new walkway to the front porch steps, adjusting the parking area to make it deeper, 4' sidewalk. Trees were reviewed.

First Selectman Meehan noted they also met with the Meades. They are on board with the plan, but not necessarily in favor of 3 or 4 trees. They would like fewer trees and more shrub screening on the patio side. He indicated Mr. Kent will be doing landscape plans for both the Meades and the Gates.

There was further discussion as to whether or not these were actually 70% completion plans. Chairman Joplin noted he would contact Gary Giroux tomorrow and ask for 20 scale plans.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mueller, second by Strauss, to approve May 27, 2014 Minutes amended as follows -

• Under 3., 2nd paragraph, delete 4th sentence in its entirety.
**Vote in favor - Mueller, Tiezzi, Strauss, Schroeder, Joplin.
Opposed - none. Motion Carried.**

7. Approval of Bills

Chairman Joplin reviewed a bill from Kent & Frost in the amount of \$14,980.50. It was decided to table the bill until the August 26th meeting.

8. Other Business of the Committee

Committee membership was discussed. It was also agreed it would be helpful to have some engineering expertise on the Committee. Size of the Committee was discussed. First Selectman Meehan will reach out to Committee members who haven't been attending to see what their intentions are.

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Steven Tiezzi reviewed the progress of the North Quarter Park Master Plan Committee and the recent public meeting. He indicated the plan was well received by those in attendance.

There was discussion regarding whether or not the existing Library Building could be kept and used for other Town purposes.

Chuck Mueller reviewed the progress of the Library Building Committee and its recommendation for a two story building. Space planning will be reviewed at the next LBC meeting tomorrow night along with the Grant application.

9. Next Meeting - August 26, 2014

Chairman Joplin noted someone from the Connecticut Water Company should be present at the next meeting to communicate and review coordination of any planned project.

10. Audience of Citizens - none.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary