

Chester Main Street Project Committee
Regular Meeting, March 10, 2015
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1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Michael Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Seating of Members

In attendance were Michael Joplin, Chuck Mueller, Charlene Janecek, Leslie Strauss and John Schroeder.

3. Review of Phase 1 in terms of funding, time line for release of bid documents and establishing date to begin construction

Chairman Joplin noted the request for funding of \$100,000 was approved at the March 5, 2015 Town Meeting. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,025,000 with STEAP Grant monies of \$900,000+/- . There were no comments or questions from the public at the Town Meeting and the vote was unanimous. Joplin also noted the Library request for \$100,000 for schematic design also got approved.

Chairman Joplin noted now the project is funded and the next step is to go out to bid. The project will begin between May 15 and June 1, the earlier the better. This project should conclude before the Main Street Bridge Replacement downtown. Joplin noted the Committee's involvement in managing the project will not be substantial.

Chairman Joplin noted Phase 1 and the Bridge Replacement are currently on schedule. D.O.T. has until April to change the date to January 2017, but it is highly unlikely. If there is a delay, it will be because of DEEP.

Joplin noted the Main Street Project should start May 2015 and the Bridge Replacement January 2016.

There was much discussion regarding the next phase of the Main Street Project. Joplin reviewed STEAP Grant funding. He noted Phase 1 is 90% STEAP Grant and 10% Town. The norm for STEAP funding is about 60 to 75%. The next phase could

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be about \$400,000.

There was much discussion regarding attendance and commitment for the upcoming phases. Chuck Mueller noted the Committee needs to be redefined and/or reconfigured. John Schroeder noted the Committee needs to avoid revisiting certain items several times over. Each item needs to be thoroughly and thoughtfully discussed. Thoughtful and respectful discussions should take place. People tend to react based on a previous experience or bias, rather than looking at the situation or context. We should not fall back on preconceived notions. The design team should be allowed to lead and the Committee should follow the lead. Chairman Joplin agreed. All members present agreed to commit to this project for another 3 years and to attend at least 75% of the meetings.

4. Status of Main Street Bridge Replacement

Chairman Joplin noted the Main Street Bridge Replacement is still on for January 2016.

5. Set planning goals for next 2 years

It was agreed the Committee should start discussing the RFP for Phase 3 by the end of April. A copy of the previous RFP for Phase 1 will be distributed to members for review.

6. Other Business, if any

Leslie Strauss distributed copies of the Round 3 Municipal and state EV Charging Incentive Program. She asked if this would be appropriate for the Laurel Hill Cemetery parking area. It was suggested Ms. Strauss forward this to the Board of Selectmen with the suggestion they pursue it with a possible location of the Water Street parking lot.

7. Bills for Payment - none.

8. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mueller, second by Janecek, to approve February 3, 2015 Minutes amended by correcting two typos on Page 2 - 3rd paragraph "regarding" and 4th paragraph "top".

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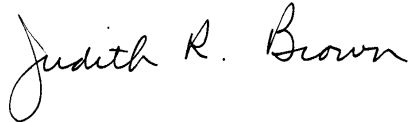
Unanimously Approved with John Schroeder abstaining.
Motion Carried.

9. Audience of Citizens - none.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at
8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary