

## **Chester Main Street Project Committee**

**Regular Meeting, August 27, 2019**

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### 1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### 2. Seating of Members

Members present included Michael Joplin, Chuck Mueller, John Schroeder, Leslie Strauss, Charlene Janecek. Others present included Aaron Mortensen from Nathan Jacobson & Associates, Selectman James Grzybowski and Richard Strauss.

### 3. Review current set of drawings and plans and send comments to Jacobson's office, either accept plans or make recommendations

Aaron Mortensen from Nathan Jacobson & Associates reviewed in detail all 54 pages of the Town of Chester, Main Street Improvements, Phase 3. He reviewed traffic plans and permanent signage. All signs will be new. Mr. Mortensen will check on the height of the signs. It was agreed wayfinding should be Peter Good's signage. It was suggested perhaps parking requirements could be written into tenants' leases. The existing signs along the Chester Wall will come down and be taken to the Town Garage for storage. The No Left Turn and No Thru Trucks on Spring Street and No Right Turn on the Chester Wall were reviewed. Also, No Parking Here to Corner on Spring Street. Existing Signs at the Flag Pole Circle will be removed. John Divis will remove some of the trash cans to the town garage. The area in front of the French Hen and the Brewery was reviewed. Relocation of the fire hydrant was reviewed. The Water Company is working on that. Remove the kiosk in front of the old Town Hall if Mr. Miller doesn't want it. Damaged curbing needs to be replaced. Mr. Mortensen will check to see if detectable warning strips are required (they should be grey metal if required). Is the tactile warning strip on Maple Street necessary? The circle will be rebuilt where the fire hydrant was. There was discussion regarding the crown on Maple Street. Mortensen noted the crown must match the existing grade at both ends.

Some of the specific items from John Schroeder reviewed were the following –

- Reached out to Inland Wetlands? Yes, Inland Wetland Application, September 9, 2019 meeting.
- Reached out to Planning & Zoning? Yes, 8-24 referral, September 12, 2019 meeting.
- Reached out to Health Department and Building Official? Not necessary.
- Reached out to Fire Marshal? Yes, only input was related to fire hydrant relocation.
- Reached out to Eversource? No, Mr. Mortensen noted First Selectwoman Gister was talking to Eversource about how to feed more power to one building in town that has inadequate power. John Schroeder noted we should reach out to them (engineer to engineer) about the opportunity and possible mutual desire to relocate power lines underground. The entire town is behind this concept. Eversource's thinking may have changed since the last time they were approached about this. We need to do our due diligence and not try to predict what they will or won't do. Schroeder noted he has heard there is a possibility they may want to do this. It certainly doesn't hurt to make the phone call and the potential upside is enormous. Schroeder has heard the lines are overloaded creating a dangerous situation. Chairman Joplin noted there may be other buildings in

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town with deficient power, so this needs to be explored as well. Mr. Mortensen noted he will ask his electrical engineering consultant to make this inquiry.

- Reached out to Frontier? Mortensen replied no. Schroeder asked who owned the poles. Mortensen replied Frontier. He will contact Frontier (same as above).
- Reached out to Comcast? Mortensen replied no, but will contact Comcast (same as above). Schroeder stated perhaps Eversource, Frontier and Comcast will all share in the cost of burying their lines.
- Where will porta-potties be located? Back corner of Maple Street parking lot.
- Why are we saving the old granite curbs. Is there a specific purpose? Mortensen noted John Divis wants to save all removed items from the streetscape for possible reuse in town somewhere else (granite curbing, signs, waste receptacles, etc.).
- What's the status of the kiosk design? Brian Kent is working on this. Schroeder stated the keyed map with historic signage around town pointing out interesting features in town. Historical Society should be consulted. Perhaps they would like to add some kind of 'ditty' or a keyed map with historic signage around town pointing out interesting features in town.

Specific items from Chuck Mueller reviewed were the following –

- 'SIGHT' >> 'SITE' misspellings- rife.
- Specifically note the 2<sup>nd</sup> slim void on Topo Sheet- not just 'Typical'.
- Demo Plan assumed voids will have been filled? What's GNCB's structural approach? A proposal from GNCB has been given to First Selectwoman Gister for review.
- Match-Line marginal notes seem to have wrong sheet numbers, generally.
- 'PROTECT' certain shrubs on top of Chester Wall? AVW Landscape dwgs.
- Removal of Priscilla's tree, etc. – copacetic? Priscilla has agreed to removal of the tree.
- Push the 6 new parking stalls at triangle out toward roadway! Helps access into 6 Main Lot.
- Consider two Speed Tables per Bibbiani's comment last week-any drainage issues?
- New sidewalk & Belgium Block in front of Otto? Req'd? OK w/JRS?
- C5.0-Why are new grading plans on top of half-toned existing conditions plan?
- A lot of crown on Maple St. – needed?
- C6.0-Construction Schedule Narrative-'work will occur in summer'? 'See Sheet 2'?
- C8.x-No cross sections at Spring and Maple Streets? Need.
- Pole Bases-1" exposed-OK.
- C11-Walk us through the proposed construction phasing concept. Phases 1 thru 5 were reviewed.
- Color is good-use more?
- No bike racks near OTTO's? Need two there, perhaps more than other places?
- L-X.x Sidewalk jointing pattern is good – some missing near Chester Wall.

4. Other Business, if any – none.

5. Bills for Payment – none.

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6. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2019

**Motion by Janecek, second by Schroeder, to approve August 20, 2019 Minutes amended as follows –**

- **3. Presentation by Jacobson office of plans at 80%.**
- **2nd paragraph under 3. – “To the public: Aaron Mortensen presented the plans...”.**
- **10<sup>th</sup> paragraph under 3. – “Priscilla Robinson, Main Street,...”.**
- **11th paragraph under 3. – “Virginia Carmany, 51 Middlesex Avenue,...”.**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph under 5. – “Suzie Woodward, 22 Waterhouse Lane...”.**
- **7<sup>th</sup> paragraph under 5. – “Suzie Woodward noted that the merchants...”.**
- **11<sup>th</sup> paragraph under 5. – Add – “John Schroeder asked again for a project schedule prepared by the design professionals.”**
- **12<sup>th</sup> paragraph under 5. – Add – “The Committee meeting continued after the audience of citizens disbursed.”**
- **11. Audience of Citizens – Add – “At the onset of the meeting approximately 20 citizens in the audience. Their comments and concerns are reflected in the first 5 or so pages of these minutes.”**

**Unanimously Approved.**

7. Audience of Citizens

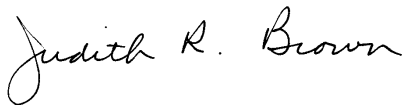
No comments were offered.

It was noted the next meeting will be September 24<sup>th</sup>.

8. Adjournment

**Motion by Mueller, second by Schroeder, to adjourn at 9:50 PM. Unanimously Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary