

MINUTES

(DRAFT)

DPIC WORKING GROUP – Downtown Special Services District Concept
October 18th 2018, 9 AM Town Hall Rm. 212D

Attendance Working Group:

Dewey Loselle, Jen Fava, Pete Ratkiewich, Eileen Flug, Randy Herbertson, David Waldman, Matt Mandell, Craig Schiavone, Sara Harris, Patty Strauss, Mary Young, Gary Conrad

Public: Don Bergman

DRAFT MAP : Modifications and suggestions to the Draft boundary map of the potential DSSD were discussed: Major edits: Included Gorham Island property, go down as far as Art Center

DRAFT ORDINANCE: Discussion, review, questions and suggested edits of first draft of boundary map for the DSSD took place. Some major items of discussion included:

- D. Loselle & E. Flug discussed that this was first draft of a proposed ordinance that would require approval of the RTM and a 51% majority of property owners based on: one owner per property and 51% of assessed value of properties within the DSSD. Ordinance was drafted based on the authorizing State legislation and review of other successful ordinances from other Towns/Cities in CT. Stamford's seemed most like Westport in terms of purpose/services etc.
- Recommendation was made to modify first paragraph, "Purpose" to include reference to increased/improved "maintenance".
- Make up of proposed Board of Commissioners
- Reimbursement to Town for managing and conducting the required voting/referendum among property owners necessary to agree to accepting ordinance creating DSSD and special tax which would apply. Town would probably hire a "special supervisor" who has conducted such balloting elsewhere.
- Discussion on trash collection revenue as a pass through revenue
- Question if 8-24 filing would be required for DSSD acceptance of gifts?
- Question as to whether a "mail ballot" was a requirement or could it be "digital" voting?
- Will it be possible to know who has voted and who not?
- Randy Herbertson discussed that DMA Board has considered that DMA may dissolve if DSSD is created as DSSD would in future do tasks of current DMA plus expanded maintenance activities. DMA currently has 3 part time employees.
- Open question about role of BOF in process as legislation only mentions/requires RTM
- A copy of a proposed DRAFT set of By-laws was also passed out at the meeting, but not discussed.
- Due to the limited amount of time available to digest and review the DRAFT ordinance it was agreed that a copy would be circulated to the Working Group via Google Docs so comments, suggested revisions could be made and sent back to Asst. Town Attorney Flug and Chairman Loselle.

Minutes Submitted by: D. Loselle

