

Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting June 14, 2012

Room # 309 at 8:30 AM

In Attendance: Lou Gagliano (chair), and Bob Jacobs, Dan Kail and Craig Rebecca Schaivone

Absent: Gerry Kagan, Jeff Mayer, and Valerie Smith Malin

Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the meetings of May 24 and May 29, 2012 were approved without any change,
2. Chair noted that SWRPA has no funds to extend the Traffic Safety Study to our Post Road Corridor and that he met with the Toquet Hall Advisory Group speaking to the parents, advisors and young adults about the importance of our project to the community and their future.
He asked them to think over the summer about the types of features they wanted to make downtown a more desired place for them to spend time.
3. Chair introduced guest Hiram Peck Planning Director of Simsbury, whose resume had been distributed as part of the agenda.
4. Mr. Peck covered in his presentation:
 - 1) His professional credentials and work experience,
 - 2) An outline of the downtown planning efforts that he has directed in Simsbury,
 - 3) A description of the process they followed in Simsbury to build community support and identification of the priorities,
 - 4) The importance of the charretting process and the survey of the community,
 - 5) The importance of the use of Photo Shop presentation so that community members can visualize the proposed structures and visual effects of the planning output,
 - 6) The proposed and evolving changes to their Form Based Code process,

7) The funding for the planning process which for the most part (greater than 85%) came from foundations, grants and private donations.

8) The importance of an economist as part of the planning team to provide perspective on the reasonable and supportable levels of growth of retail, restaurants and housing,

5. Chairman opened up the floor for discussions and questions of the many members of the public who were in attendance. During this portion of the meeting there was a very productive exchange of questions, answers, and observations directed to the Westport process and goals for our Downtown effort.

6. Chairman requested that Hiram prepare a proposal of how he might help manage and direct our efforts. This outline to include steps, timelines and costs. Chairman asked if possible that Hiram provide this in time for the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for next Tuesday June 19th.

7. Chairman thanked Hiram and the members of the community who had made this such a productive meeting for those in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.