

Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting August 14, 2012  
Room # 307 at 8:30 AM

In Attendance: Lou Gagliano (chair), Robert Jacobs, Ken Bernhard, Dan Kail and Valerie Smith-Malin

Absent: Gerry Kagan, and Craig Rebecca Schiavone

### Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without any change.
2. Chairman updated group concerning the Westport News Roundtable of last week including participation by the DMA, Westport Cinema, P&Z, Small Retailer, and Chairman. The meeting topic was downtown planning and was viewed as positive and should be pod-cast this week.
3. Chairman asked for comment on the suggestion from the Second Selectman to consider moving to an immediate RFP on the Baldwin parking structure. As the sentiment was that doing this ahead of the planning process would be viewed as preliminary in a nature, the Committee requested the Chair to send a letter informing the Second Selectman and the First Selectman of our continued path towards a Master Plan of Development and Implementation.
4. Formation of not for profit organization moved forward. By voice vote the officers were chosen as Louis Gagliano President and Treasurer and Ken Bernhard as Secretary. Further all other members of the Committee will be named as Directors. It was also suggested that a Bylaw of the organization be drafted that would require any officer or director to be a member of the Downtown 2020 Committee.
5. Discussions were opened for the purpose of hearing input and suggestions from the DMA on the issue of Downtown Planning. The group was represented by Roz Koether, Bob LeRose and David Waldman. The prime focus of the discussions was on the issue of parking and specifically the issue of moving to a paid parking system as soon as practical. The prime reasons

for this stemmed from a suggestion that the Police Chief found the present parking rule limitations very difficult to enforce, and the DMA felt the source of revenue produced could be used to fund many of the suggestions that were emerging from the consensus building of the Downtown 2020 Committee. The DMA representatives felt that there would be no damaging impact on retail business. The DMA members pointed to their study of 2007, which also projected the revenue to be obtained from paid parking, as the basis for their opinion. Clearly any changes to parking needs to take into account employee parking. The Committee also noted that the size of any parking facility would be affected by the potential amount of parking converted to parks along the river and additional growth of retail, housing and related facilities in the downtown area resulting from the planning process leading to the Master Plan of Development and Implementation.

Members of the public in attendance expressed their concerns about the issue of the movement to paid parking which needs to be part of the planning process currently underway. This was also the position of members of the Committee in attendance. The Chair thanked the DMA for coming and noted the need for ongoing issues about the downtown planning efforts.

6. Chairman noted the need to have evening meetings beginning in September in order to permit members of the Community who work to comment on the planning issues. Chairman submitted a list of tentative questions/topics for consideration for these meetings.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM