

Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting August 21, 2012
Room # 307 at 8:30 AM

In Attendance: Lou Gagliano (chair), Robert Jacobs, Ken Bernhard, Dan Kail and Craig Rebecca Schiavone

Absent: Gerry Kagan, and Valerie Smith-Malin

Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without any change.

2. Chair updated group on coordination meeting called by First Selectman with P&Z, Historic District, Public Works and Tree Warden to discuss downtown efforts. Meeting emphasized importance of integration of effort.

3. Discussions took place as a follow up to the meeting with DMA representatives during last week's meeting. Ongoing need to coordinate with the DMA in moving forward in terms of downtown planning. Review of parking discussions with the DMA yielded several points:

- Paid parking consideration must be part on any coordinated Master Planning process,
- 2007 DMA Parking study to be sent to all members for their review,
- Discussed the DMA comment that the present parking hour restrictions was a detriment to downtown retail and restaurant activity. The Police Chief commented to the DMA that he viewed the restrictions in terms of hourly limits as difficult to enforce. Chair to send a note to Selectman for consideration of removing the parking restrictions.

4. Consideration for general public meetings in the PM yielded consensus that these should await the retention of a consultant/planning facilitator. Will consider moving some of our Committee meetings to the PM. Efforts to find and fund such a consultant should be accelerated. Not for profit formation is

moving forward to achieve such tax status, and to provide funding for the consultant/facilitator.

5. Chair will be out of the state for several weeks, and no meetings of the Committee will be scheduled until latter in September.

6. It was agreed to meet with Jeff Speck, a candidate for the role of consultant/facilitator, who is associated with the Beinfield Associates group. The Committee was of the opinion that in the short term our attention would be to find a consultant to lead and facilitate our effort including priority and consensus building within the Community. As such any broad based project such as the one outlined by Beinfield Associates is premature. Chair to communicate this to the Beinfield Associate group and to seek a date and the CV of Jeff Speck.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.