

**Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting December 5, 2012
Room # 309 at 8:30 AM**

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

Absent: Valerie Smith-Malin

Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the previous meetings were approved for the meetings of November 20 and November 27 with one change to the minutes of November 27th to reflect the attendance of Craig Rebecca Schiavone.
2. Chairman reviewed the public PM meeting of November 27th and reviewed the topics that the members of the public raised. Members of the Committee commented that a more targeted presentation would benefit the members of the community including the Map of the downtown area, the changes that were involved in the projects under consideration, and thoughts about other downtown priorities. It was agreed that the next public meeting in the evening would await further definition of the process to hire and retain a consultant. It is likely that this would take place in January.
3. Discussions about the Gunn property and the possible movement of the building onto the Baldwin lot as proposed by Bedford Square (BS) to be turned into retail space at pricing below market value. While the consensus of the Committee was positive to the concept a concern of members was that the placement on the Baldwin lot as proposed by BS could hamper design of future use of that facility. It was agreed that the Committee while agreeing with many of the benefits to the downtown and community would leave the decision of placement and negotiations to the BS group and the Town.
4. Discussions of the fund raising and direction of the Committee's work and the engagement of the consultant took place. It was agreed that a summary of the group's direction of the work and the benefits to the community would be reduced to a summary document. This document would be used to update community groups and as a further tool in the fund raising process. Gerry

Kagan volunteered to draft such a document for the group's review, which he hoped to complete in the next several weeks. It was agreed that the process of fund raising and consultant selection should be accelerated and completed as soon as possible with a target of the end of January. This time line was moved to a motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman pointed out that two additional reviews were in the process of being set up with Buckhurst, Fish and Jacquermart and Wallace and Todd. Both of these sessions were contemplated in the next several weeks. Group concluded that a meeting with First Selectman should take place to obtain his backing and support of Town Funds to supplement the private effort of the Committee. Chairman to set a date for the meeting with First Selectman and advise so that other members could attend.

5. Representative Steinberg in attendance informed the Committee that the Grant that the Committee help submit for street scape improvement would not be awarded until late winter or early spring. The Grant process was oversubscribed with \$26 million submitted against a total grant of \$5 million. This would likely make any amount Westport would be awarded only a partial award in comparison to the \$497,000 we submitted. Chairman agreed to inform the Director of Public Works and the First Selectman.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.