

Minutes of the RTM Long Range Planning Committee  
Date: October 11, 2012  
Town Hall Room 307/309, 7:30 pm

Present: Jonathan Cunitz (Chair), Allen Bomes, Jack Klinge, Dewey Loselle,  
Lois Schine, Carla Rea, Velma Heller, Matthew Mandel (arrived late)  
Absent: Wendy Batteau

Minutes Reporter: Jonathan Cunitz

Agenda: Presentation of status report of Downtown 2020 Committee

Lou Gagliano, Chairman of the Downtown 2020 Committee, presented a report of the activity to date of the Downtown 2020 Committee. The Committee has had extensive meetings with stakeholders to obtain input on what the community wants the future downtown to look like.

The next step is the preparation of a Master Plan of Development and Implementation aided by a planning consultant. Interviews have been conducted with several potential consultants and others are being scheduled. The work on the Master Plan has been estimated to cost about \$150,000. The Downtown 2020 Committee hopes to raise \$75,000 from individuals and community groups and will request the balance needed from the town.

A discussion then ensued about whether the town should fund the entire cost to prevent the appearance of any conflicts of interest. It was noted that funding to begin the planning process is needed much earlier than the "normal" town budget appropriation process that would not allocate funds until July 2013. This supports the reasoning to have a public/private funding partnership so that the preparation of the Master Plan can start earlier. There is a goal for the Master Plan to be completed and approved by the end of 2013.

There are five ongoing projects in the downtown area that are in progress that have to be integrated into the Master Plan: Bedford Square, the Library expansion, National Hall, the cinema and the Levitt Pavilion. Issues of concern expressed at the meeting included: the desire for greater "greening of the river", friendlier walkways and access to the downtown, excess development, limitations on retail facilities, the impact on contiguous neighborhoods and the impact on traffic patterns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Cunitz, reporter