



WESTPORTsm

DOWNTOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 8, 2022, Draft Minutes

In attendance: Chair: Randy Herbertson; Members: Max Crowley, Jennifer Fava, Colin Kelly, Tom Kiely, Matthew Mandel, Johanna Martell, Brian McGunagle, Deirdre O'Farrelly, Jenna Patok, Peter Ratkiewicz, Gately Ross; Staff: Donna Douglass

The Downtown Plan Implementation Committee held a remote public meeting at 8:30 a.m. on **Thursday, December 8, 2022**, for the following purposes:

- I. Opening Remarks – Chair – *The new survey is open, about 500 submissions so far. The focus is on Parker Harding. The working group will be meeting to determine the final plan for Parker Harding moving forward. Goal is for DPIC to approve Parker Harding next month to move forward. It is a long road map ahead to move through all the different departments to get final approvals, however, the goal to complete Parker Harding in 2023.*

A. Overall Meeting Goals

B. [Approval of Minutes](#) (11/2022 Meeting)

MOTION (Ratkiewicz): To approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting.

SECOND: Ross

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

- II. Strategic Priority Review

A. Parking Lots Reinvention

1. Downtown Lots Design Master Plan – Reconnecting the Riverfront

- a) [Langan Review](#) – *Rosanne Lubeck from Connect the Dots and Achan Sookying, David Gagnon & Michael Hunton from Langan discussed the current focus which is on Parker Harding with the feedback from survey. People are looking for balance between parking and green space. Responses show residents are accepting of a reduction of parking from the survey results. Strong interest is increasing green space. Survey results showed a 50/50 split between parking and greenspace. People are willing to walk from parking lots further out to Downtown. Biggest enthusiasm is the river walk from Parker Harding to Imperial Lot and the concealment of dumpsters/utilities. There is some willingness to support privately. Survey results have been consistent with questions having a similar response. There is a willingness to close Taylor Place for vehicle traffic which might elevate some traffic issues. This proposal was recommended by the*

police department; however, a traffic study has not been done on that area yet. There is support moving Jesup Green parking, adding a play area, boat docking, restroom. Good wide-range demographic response on the survey. Parking options to recirculate within the lot or move on with wayfinding to a different lot. Restriping and making the lot compliant automatically will reduce the number of parking spaces. The working group will be going through parking options and discussion details of dumpster placement to present next month.

2. Other Projects Status

- a) Baldwin Lot – *Still under supply chain issues for the lights, using temporary lighting. Waiting on charging stations also.*
- b) Main/Avery Streets- *Paved and all cross walks installed, improved circulation on Avery. Moved center line for better lane distribution for parking. Waiting on Frontier and Cable to be removed from poles.*

B. Pedestrian Access

1. Streetscape Improvements

- a) Additional cans for high-traffic delivered –

C. Sustainability

- 1. WEDG Certification (Langan) – *Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines is a program of the Waterfront Alliance. WEDG is a rating system and set of guidelines to create resilient, ecological, and accessible waterfronts. Westport will be going through WEDE review for verification the town is using best practices for sustainability with the help of Sustainable Westport.*

D. Maintenance

- 1. [CT Cultural Districting](#)
- 2. [Setting up a Conservancy](#)
- 3. Special Services District
 - a) [Last Ordinance Draft](#)
 - b) Cost development - pricing in development

Discussion held. No Action Taken

III. To adjourn the meeting.

Motion (Crowley): To adjourn the meeting.

Second: Martell

Meeting adjourned 9:38 AM

Randy Herbertson, Chair
Downtown Plan Implementation Committee
December 15, 2022