

Minutes

Downtown Plan Implementation Committee

November 5, 2015

Town Hall Room 309 -9:00 AM

Note: These are “action minutes” of the meeting as previously agreed to by the DPIC. The entire meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the Town’s website.

DPIC Attendance: Dewey Loselle (Co-chairperson), Melissa Kane (Co-chairperson), Larry Bradley, Matthew Mandell, Steve Desloge, Gary Conrad, Lois Schine, Dale Call, Alicia Mozian, Craig Schiavone, Ken Bernhard, Pippa Bell Ader, Donald Giannini for Steve Smith, Jessica Newshel

DPIC Unavailable: Peter Boyd, Anthony Riggio, Peter Ratkiewich, Jennifer Fava, Steve Edwards, Mary Young

Melissa kicked off the meeting by announcing that RBA submitted the Downtown Master Plan for an ACEC award and the plan won in the public outreach category.

Dewey gave an update on Main Street improvements. The sidewalks and lights are expected to be completed by November 21st. The old cobra street lights should come down as well or at least be turned off.

Westport did not receive the STEAP grant it applied for to complete the sidewalk project along the back of Parker Harding. DPIC to look for another grant to apply for.

Steve Desloge shared the streetscape holiday decorations and announced that the tree lighting will be December 3rd and the menorah lighting on December 6th. There will be a block party from Post to Elm following the tree lighting.

Melissa noted that there was an initial meeting with the trustee of the group that owns the Avery lot to discuss combining it with the Baldwin lot. If this should happen, the barrier fence between the lots would be removed and flooding issues could be addressed.

The committee charged with performing a baseline analysis of maintenance in Downtown will present their report in our December meeting.

It may be possible to use the existing 501(c)(3) to collect money for new benches around Downtown.

Alicia Mozian discussed the issue of floodplain management. In the 1990s, a flood audit of downtown properties was completed which made a to-do list for commercial buildings.

Currently, only Athleta and 125 Main have flood proofed. It may be useful to perform an updated audit.

Alicia's group will coordinate with P&Z to go around to tenants that haven't done any flood prevention and discuss possibilities and emergency preparedness in general. There was an Army Corps of Engineers study in 2000 with town-wide recommendations.

Discussion of public transit bus shelters in Westport. Locations for non-commercialized shelters are being considered with data from Norwalk transit. It is fairly easy to obtain funding for bus shelters, provided Westport has budget to maintain them.

Melissa discussed the idea of an arts and culture trail with wayfinding. Various arts organizations around town support the idea.

DPIC should facilitate improvements to Toquet Hall which could include noise proofing and adding a kitchen. This would improve teenagers' usage of Downtown.

Melissa and Dewey to circulate descriptions of working groups so that committee members can select which they'd like to join.

The date and time for the next meeting will be circulated.

Meeting adjourned 10:10am.

Recorded by Jessica Newshel
Downtown Planning Implementation Committee