

## Action Minutes

### Downtown Plan Implementation Committee

December 9, 2015

Town Hall Room 210 -7:00 PM

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, Peter Ratkiewich, Matthew Mandell, Steve Edwards, Dale Call, Alicia Mozian, Ken Bernhard, Tony Riggio, Jessica Newshel

**DPIC Unavailable:** Jennifer Fava, Steve Desloge, Mary Young, Craig Schiavone, Pippa Bell Ader, Peter Boyd, Gary Conrad, Lois Schine, Steve Smith

Dewey and Melissa thanked committee members for filling out the poll concerning working group assignments. They encouraged those in attendance to let them know about any non-members who might be willing to participate in one of these groups. Working groups will be formally organized by the next meeting.

Melissa met with the Arts Advisory Committee and they are interested in working with DPIC on the proposed informational kiosks.

Steve gave an update on Main Street improvements, which expanded well beyond the original scope of work due to the cooperation of property owners. These improvements included new sidewalks, trees, lighting, curbs, crosswalk bump outs, and an updated electrical system which is out of the flood zone. The State did reimburse Westport for the improvements as covered by the grant. The cobra streetlights, which are no longer being used, will be removed sometime after the holiday shopping season, so as not to disrupt retailers.

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

Dewey noted that discussions with the trustee of the group that owns the Avery lot are ongoing. The Green Task Force found a grant for EV chargers, which could be considered for a merged lot. The application is due January 7<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion on the logistics and politics of merging these lots, the committee was in agreement that this should become a priority in order to combine the effort with Elm Street improvements and Bedford Square development. Dewey made a motion to encourage and endorse Steve Edwards to ask the Board of Finance for funds to produce a design for Elm Street that includes the combined lot. Melissa seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. Steve and Jim will work to have this item on the Board of Finance’s January agenda.

Melissa told the members about two grants providing funds for post-Sandy resiliency projects that she and several others had worked on. If awarded, the town would receive funds to pay for flood audits for all downtown buildings, a master drainage study, and a dead man's brook study. The decision will likely come in January.

Discussion of public transit bus shelters in Westport. Locations and designs for non-commercialized shelters are being considered with data from Norwalk transit.

The committee discussed a text amendment that the developers of the Save the Children site have sent to P&Z. The amendment would create a Riverwalk District Zone. For an increase in height and width of the development on the site, the developers would agree to relocate the house on the corner of Routes 1 and 33 (designated by the National Register) so that turning lanes could be added to the intersection and reduce congestion. Public comments in support of this proposal, which is consistent to suggestions in the Master Plan, can be provided at the P&Z's meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Ken Bernhard made a motion that the DPIC support and communicate the concepts of building a pedestrian bridge across the Saugatuck, moving the house, and allowing for better traffic flow. Pete seconded the motion and everyone voted in favor, except for Larry, Matt, and Alicia who abstained.

The next meeting will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9am.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Recorded by Jessica Newshel  
Downtown Planning Implementation Committee