



WESTPORTsm

DOWNTOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 20, 2024, Minutes

In attendance: Chair: Randy Herbertson; Members: Peter Ratkiewich, Gately Ross, Jenna Petok, Matthew Mandell, Maxwell Crowley (remote), Tom Kiely, Johanna Martell, Al D'Amura, Brian McGunagle (remote), and Dave Briggs (remote); Staff: Sara Amaro

The Downtown Plan Implementation Committee held a public meeting at 8:30 a.m. on **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, for the following purposes:

- I. Opening Remarks – Chair
 - A. Overall Meeting Goals
 - B. Approval of Minutes (05/2024 Meeting)
 - Motion to Approve:** Kiely
 - Second:** Petok
 - Vote:** Unanimous
- II. Strategic Priority Review
 - A. Parking Lots Reinvention
 1. Downtown Lots Design Master Plan – Reconnecting the Riverfront
 - (a) Jesup and Imperial (Police Station) planning and public engagement
 - Jesup and Imperial (Police Station) to be evaluated on how to properly utilize the area with structured parking to be heavily considered.
 - Prior to the design phase, immense public engagement to occur to meet our goal of increasing greenspace, especially by the river, and walkability throughout downtown. Ways to reach constituents to potentially include:
 - (i) Continue to monitor the lots, taking notice of which lots are being used/underused and what can be done to spread awareness to those that are underutilized. Drone flights will be used to study parking at peak times and over the course of several seasons.
 - (ii) Westport Downtown Association to communicate with the merchants downtown to remind them where to locate [all day parking](#).
 - (iii) Post more on media outlets – Facebook, Instagram, First Selectwoman Newsletter, etc..
 - (iv) Individual as well as group interviews from stakeholders.
 - (v) Public charrettes - potentially to be held at the Westport Library.
 - (vi) Target special interest groups i.e.: families with small children, bikers, etc...
 - An independent company to be hired to conduct surveys so there are no biases.

1. Downtown Lots Design Master Plan – Reconnecting the Riverfront (cont)

- During public engagement, no designs to be shown so that priorities are heard and not influenced by a proposed plan. If specific discussions are to occur, they will include topics such as bathrooms.

III. To adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Mandell

Second: Ross

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 AM

Randy Herbertson, Chair
Downtown Plan Implementation Committee
June 20, 2024