

# Minutes

## Downtown Plan Implementation Committee

May 5, 2016

Town Hall Room 201 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:** Melissa Kane (Co-chairperson), Dewey Loselle (Co-chairperson), Jessica Newshel, Steve Edwards, Steve Desloge, Craig Schiavone, Jennifer Fava, Alicia Mozian, Steve Palmer, Tony Riggio, Lois Schine, Matt Mandell, Pippa Ben Ader, Ken Bernhard, Steve Smith

**DPIC Unavailable:** Peter Boyd, Peter Ratkiewich, Fotios Koskinas, Gary Conrad

Last month’s minutes approved.

G2. Downtown Maintenance Study. The working group met to review the report of the town’s committee. The members split up the report by department and were asked to come back with more detail on what their department’s role is in the process and find some short term solutions. The members thought that the first step would be to improve upon what maintenance systems currently exist and then discuss more cost-effective long-term solutions. Steve Desloge and Lee Papageorge met to discuss some current problems. Chip Stevens suggested that it needs to be a cooperative effort between the sanitation company, DMA, and Chamber of Commerce.

PK2. Avery/Baldwin Lot. Series of discussions with the trustee of the lot. Dewey said that we are making very good progress.

P5. Elm Street revitalization. Money was approved for the design and the survey and preliminary design has been completed, but it is on hold. David Waldman discussed the proposed land swap of 36 Elm Street. The proposed swap would occur between a portion of the Town’s Northern Elm Street parking lot which front Elm street and backs up to the rear of the Brooks Corner and the lot which currently is occupied by a 6,929 SF building located at 36 Elm Street. This fits in with the Plan’s concept of a liner building on Elm that would hide the parking lot behind.

M8. Provide Amenities for Public Transit Passengers. Pippa provided an update. Westport Rotary has granted the Town \$15,000 to the town to help construct the shelters. Coordination with Norwalk Transit is still being worked out. Next step will be to identify locations that both make sense and are permissible.

P4. Toquet Hall Improvements. Stephen Smith gave an update on progress to date. There is a renovation plan with a budget that addresses many of the issues. Fundraising will start shortly

and funds will be deposited into the 501(c)3. The issue to be worked out is how to coordinate the receiving and disbursement of funds.

P8. Arts and cultural heritage trail - "Westport Wandernet". CT Office of the Arts grant proposal was submitted last month. The grant is for \$20,000, with a 50% match, 25% of which can be in-kind services. The design has still not be decided upon, but will be accessible to all. The working group would like to move forward regardless of how much money is received from the grant. Other funding sources will be sought.

M1/M2. Post Road crossing and improvements. The working group is still trying to set up a meeting with CTDOT.

M5/M6.

M9. Bicycle parking. Melissa spoke with Tracy Yost who started a bike rental company in Westport. Tracy will be on the working group to help identify bike parking spots in Downtown. A town-wide bike plan would be a long-term goal for the working group. A Westport loop is being worked on.

The website is very close to being launched.

Pippa mentioned the green task force's initiative to ask retailers to close their store doors to conserve energy.

The necklace around Town Green is being considered by the Board of Finance next week and the RTM in June.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 9am.

Meeting adjourned 10:25 am.

Recorded by Jessica Newshel  
Downtown Planning Implementation Committee