

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014 - Flaherty Room - Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Trisha Danka, Bruce Baker, Don Smith, Rick Belden, Jeff Dessetschleger, Kathie Vrlík, Jennifer Magri, Hpreet Singh (7:13 p.m.)

Members Absent: Rory Burke

Others Present: Fred Messore, Seymour Economic Development Director (7:04 p.m.)

Meeting was called to order by Trisha Danka at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Updates

The Chairwoman, Mrs. Danka updated the committee on the following:

- Next meeting will be 2/26/14 in the Flaherty Room and State Representative Theresa Conroy will be joining to discuss the Livable Communities effort she is involved with and how it might impact our plans.
- Paul Wetowitz encouraged Mrs. Danka to review the Building Review Committee report as part of our process. A copy should be available on Google Docs for all to review. Ms. Magri shared that several of the Planning Committee members also served on Building Review so there is already some knowledge on possible impacts.
- The Ordinance was again delayed and the new public hearing date is Tuesday 2/18/14.

Mrs. Danka asked for a motion to add Fred Messore to the agenda.

MOTION made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Belden, vote was unanimous to add to the agenda.

Discussion: Economic Development

Mrs. Danka explains that Mr. Messore is here to explain what is or has been done within his area regarding a 10 year vision for the town.

Mr. Messore spent some time discussing the following:

- Town in the past did not invest in planning documents - may have been a cost and/or resource issue. We now have a Downtown Action Plan and implementation of many of the items is already underway.
- The Greenway Trail is a long term project as some of the property needed is state-, privately- and town-owned. They are looking for funding sources at the state and federal levels and he has asked for some funding in his 2014-2015 budget. There is hope that some money may be reallocated due to changes in the Derby project.

- The upland trail project near the Fish Bypass will be the first phase and is projected at \$200K.

Mrs. Danka was hoping to be able to gain a better understanding of \$ and phases but Mr. Messore stated that the data just isn't available yet.

- Mr. Messore further explained that the Plan of Conservation and Development needs updating and that VCOG is assisting in that effort. He expects there will be recommendations coming out of that plan.
- Also on the horizon would be sewers on Route 34, extending the commercial corridor and a Derby Avenue review to determine what is the best use for the land.
- There is a development agreement underway for the old LoPresti School which will require a public hearing and if not approved would require the town to rethink things. He reiterated the findings of the Building Review Committee which recommended investing in Town Hall and the Community Center only.

Mr. Baker asked about the recommendations coming from the Downtown Action plan. Mr. Messore stated that the plan can be found online and there was a Top 10 List of Focus Items and he believes that 8 of the 10 have already been accomplished.

Mr. Messore also brought to light the media attention that has focused on ADA issues. They recently finished a study with an engineering firm and have passed along recommendations to the First Selectman's office. This work will fall under livable communities and the CHRO has stated that we are OK as we are currently doing what we can to address things.

There was some discussion regarding ADA impact with the athletic facilities at the high school due to the OCR audit results where Mr. Belden explained some of the items that will need to be addressed there. Both Mr. Messore and Mr. Belden stressed that we need to expect to set aside a % of any grant money as a match since usually only construction costs are covered and the town would have to pick up the soft costs of any project. Mr. Smith concurred.

Mr. Messore was thanked for his input and he left the meeting.

As there were some new committee members added recently Mrs. Danka asked that everyone take a moment to introduce themselves and explain a bit about their backgrounds and experience.

Discussion: Public Works

A brief discussion was had regarding the format of the goal sheet. Mr. Smith asked that for the benefit of the new members that questions regarding our mission and how it relates to this document be entertained. There were no questions at this time.

Mrs. Danka asked that we continue to build upon the objectives, short term challenges and

priorities and that we would dive into the details once we were able to discuss with Mr. Rozum. Mr. Belden felt that some of the goals mentioned already were in existence. There was a brief discussion about road maintenance as an example and how it is done. Funds are set aside as part of the budget process now and moving forward there should be an ongoing plan.

Discussion: MuniCast

Mrs. Danka spoke with the committee regarding the MuniCast modeling program demonstration that she, Mr. Belden and Mr. Thomas attended that week. Materials about the program were also distributed for review. Both Mrs. Danka and Mr. Belden spoke highly of the product as a means for us to better model financials. There is a desire by the BOF to get to a CAFR (Consolidated Annual Financial Report) and this product would assist with that. There is a lot of value add for the low cost of this. Some questions were asked regarding development effort and ease of implementation and importing of data by Ms. Magri and Mr. Dessetschleger. Mr. Desserschleger mentioned that he saw that Danbury used the product and perhaps we could reach out to them to understand their experiences. Mr. Belden offered to do that. Mrs. Danka offered to arrange for others to receive a demo is desired.

Open Discussion

Some items briefly discussed were arriving at recommendations for quarterly reporting and annual review documents. Mr. Dessetschleger asked for confirmation on why we needed an ordinance. For perpetuity of the effort and committee. Mr. Baker discussed with the committee taking a hiatus if the ordinance does not pass since we are limited in our ability to act without it. There was a general consensus that would make sense.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Singh, vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Magri
Vice Chairman