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**MINUTES**  
**10-Year Strategic Planning Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 7:00pm**  
**Flaherty Room/Seymour Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Jen Magri, Don Smith, Bruce Baker, Preet Singh, Jeff Dussetschlager, Kathy Vrlik, Trish Danka, Rory Burke

**Members Absent:** Rick Belden

**Others Present:** Representative Theresa Conroy

**1) Call meeting to order.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance.**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) Updates: ordinance, next meeting goals**

Ordinance meeting was delayed due to weather. New date is 3/4/14 at 6 PM. We will go over format of quarterly report and performance appraisal at the next meeting.

**4) State Representative Theresa Conroy: Livable Communities**

Theresa Conroy – Connecticut has an aging population. We had a forum in January and the State put in a few bills last year and they're attempting to pool philanthropic money. Seymour has some trouble in our downtown. What can we do in the short term looking towards the future. AARP has a helpful guide. Kurt will be appointing an 8-member committee at his next meeting. I will be an advisor along with a gentleman from AARP and Fred Messor. We're starting organizationally but one of the first items of action will be curb cuts. Kurt says we have some money put aside for that and we'll be doing a survey to figure out what the Town needs. We need to make sure we have communication going forward between not only this committee and the Livable Communities one, but all of them.

Bruce – Is this mostly handicap accessibility?

Theresa – We're set for housing mostly, but it's a general livability initiative. The State will have grants that we can get access to and we're one of the first communities that's focusing on it.

Jen – So initially we'll be focused on infrastructure.

Theresa – Yes, and the first meeting for the Livable Communities Committee is March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ambulance Association.

Jen – If we make progress does that step up enforcement?

Theresa – No, but we are very behind the times. The Post Office is a good example. The High School has been cited as well.

Jen – Do you see more legislation going forward?

Theresa – The Commission on Aging is looking to gather more philanthropic resources. We had tried for the CT Main Street grant last year.

Don – The first part is circulation and accessibility.

Jen – I imagine we're going to work this into the other studies that are working towards progress downtown.

Bruce – Does this include assistance to private entities like churches or businesses?

Theresa – I'll look into it and get back to you.

Jeff – It seems to be aimed towards seniors but is it looking towards the following generation with things like adult day care programs for those looking after their parents?

Theresa – We did used to have a program but the initiative is not just structural.

Jeff – Are there services for those who live outside of downtown of volunteer resources?

Kathy – I know the Kickoff Club has looked for volunteer opportunities but we have no idea where to go.

Theresa – We had this discussion when we were revamping the blight ordinance as well.

Rory – We could use the website to create a volunteer database.

Kathy – We can talk to Newtown, I know they had a great volunteer group already in place last year and were able to tap into it.

Theresa – Does NVHD have a community survey?

Jeff – I can check.

Trish – Can we get some kind of regular update so that we can include it in the plan?

Kathy – Are there economic advantages and marketing points that we can use to push the initiative? It's easier if we can sell the return on investment.

Theresa – Obviously it's always cheaper if people can stay in their homes rather than move into assisted living facilities.

Bruce – Are there designations through the State if we make sufficient progress?

Rory – Will there be any focus on transit-oriented development as much as possible on the government side?

Theresa – Not at first, but progress on the first phase could lead to it.

Bruce – The elements of a livable community are related to being friendly to older adults to foster continued independence: better health facilities, public transportation, safety, access to shopping, an environment that fosters walking and a variety of housing stock.

#### **5) Discussion: MuniCast presentation**

Bruce – My only concern is that this guy is a one-man show. I'm just worried that if anything happens to him that we'll be out of luck.

Trish – A lot of municipalities will pay the higher initial fee with 1 year of support and learn how to do it themselves. We can also ensure that more than one person is trained at a time to lower the risk. For \$5,000, the value is great. I'm going to put together a letter saying that we all support it for consideration by the Board of Finance.

#### **6) Open discussion**

Trish – Public Works grieved performance appraisals. I am going to meet with Len Greene. He has an initiative that focuses on tasks to gather data to increase efficiency. Now, no one is used to performance measurements but they're looking it as a bad thing.

#### **7) Adjournment**

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Don Smith

Motion passes 7-0

Meeting is adjourned at 8:31 PM

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory Burke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rory Burke  
Recording Secretary