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MINUTES

Livable Communities Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Saundra Gesek, Thomas LaPaglia, Jennifer Saksa Behuniak and Suzanne Reilly.

Absent: Elizabeth (Betty) Musto

1. Suzanne called the meeting to order @ 7:15 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public comment:** None
4. A **Motion** was made by Saundra to approve the August 22, 2019 meeting Minutes and 2nd by Tom, with one correction that Jennifer Saksa was not present.
5. **Members' comments:** Suzanne reminded everyone of the upcoming Engaging Aging Workshop Series that will be offered for Free by the Connecticut Community Foundation Pathways for Older Adults workshop to be offered on November 20, 2019 - Program 3: Livable Communities for All Ages - How can We Move Forward Locally and In Connecticut? from 9:00 - 12 noon to be held at the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, Southbury, CT. Advance registration is required. She had already sent the info via email.

Saundra mentioned there was an article in the New Haven Register re: Governor Lamont Transportation Plan and the Metro North Partnerships.

Suzanne shared that the Town will be distributing a town wide newsletter quarterly beginning in new year and space may be available for the committee to share information with our residents. It was mentioned that the AARP Yellow Dot program may be an item to share with our residents in the future. (**Yellow Dot** is a free **program** designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention during the first "golden hour" after a crash or other emergency.)

6. **New business:** none
7. **Old business:** Suzanne did send a letter to First Selectman Kurt Miller on September 12 and he did promptly respond. First Selectman Miller did share our letter with the Valley Council of Governments. Rick Dunne, the Executive Director of the NVCOG responded, "Thank you, we will look into this immediately. If possible, please provide us with any ownership information of the specific parking area in question. This will help to determine what party needs to make changes to update the parking area to current requirements for handicap spaces.

The COG has consistently made requests for high level platforms to be constructed at all Waterbury Branch line stations which would provide for full handicapped access between

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train cars and adjacent areas. We will follow up with MTA and CTDOT Office of Rails in regard to their current ADA accommodation plan and future plans to deal with this unacceptable platform access situation. However, please be aware that the current arrangement may, in fact, comply with the requirements of the ADA law in that arguably a reasonable accommodation is being provided. This could be challenged by an advocacy group. Mark or I will advise you as we look into this matter.”

Other correspondence received from Bryan Nesteriak, P.E., L.S. included, “On a separate issue regarding an existing retaining wall near the train station, it was DOT’s opinion a few months ago that we own the property that the parking and the building is on. I will try and track down the survey that was shown at the time. (Brian is with **B&B**

Engineering, LLC Accurate Land Surveying, LLC)

8. Prepared the **Agenda** for **Thursday, October 24, 2019** meeting. Suzanne did confirm that our November meeting will be at the Valley Transit District, 12 Main Street, Derby offices at 6 pm Mark Pandolfi, the Valley Transit District Executive Director to see which upcoming meeting date will work for his schedule to speak to our group. (The committee agreed to meet at their facility in Derby to get an opportunity to tour their new facility.) Betty reminded committee members that she will not be present at the September Meeting,
9. **Public comment:** None
10. **A motion was made** by Tom and 2nd by Jennifer to **adjourn the meeting**. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, **Suzanne Reilly, Chairperson**