



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING: GOAL SETTING SESSION

Saturday, January 26, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Indian Hill Country Club

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Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf Street, Newington.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### ROLL CALL

##### Councilors Present

Councilor Borjeson

Councilor Bottalico

Councilor Castelle

Councilor Cohen

Councilor DelBuono (exited meeting at 1:00 p.m., returned at 2:30 p.m.)

Councilor Nagel

Mayor Woods

##### Councilors Absent

Councilor Klett

Councilor McBride

##### Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager

Andy Brecher, Economic Development Director

#### INTRODUCTION OF FACILITATORS (Phyllis Rzy & Paul Decelles, Decision Point)

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ON AGENDA - none

#### OVERVIEW

- A. Finance/Town Budget (Town Manager Salomone)
- B. Economic Development (Andy Brecher, Economic Development Director)
- C. Any Other Departmental Information/Topics to be Discussed (Town Manager Salomone)

Town Manager Salomone provided an overview of the Town's finances and the upcoming budget session to the Council. Town Manager Salomone and Economic Development Director Andy Brecher provided an overview of the Town's current and future economic development.

**FORMULATION OF SHORT-TERM GOALS**

The Town Council discussed the Town's strengths and opportunities for improvement and growth. From the discussion, the Council created a list of short term (1-18 months) and long term (18 months – 5 years) goals.

Please see attached document for details.

**FORMULATION OF LONG-TERM GOALS**

Please see attached.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ON AGENDA - none**

**REMARKS - none**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Klett and McBride absent).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaime Trevethan  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Attach.

**Town of Newington – Goal Session  
January 26, 2013**

**Strengths:**

**Group 1**

- Well run finance
- No parking meters
- Business corridor (Berlin Turnpike)
- Town Center
- Great Services
- Parks
- Library
- Senior Center

**Group 2**

- Location
- Stability
  - Socio-Economic
  - Government
- Amenities
  - Parks & Rec
  - Retail
- Affordability
  - Housing
- Cohesive
  - “One Neighborhood”
- Senior Housing
- Wealth of Volunteers
- Great school system
- Easy access
- Safety planning
- 7 Dunkin Donuts
- Emergency response
- Variety of businesses
- Excellent tax rate
- Good relationship between town council and BOE
- Fire/Police equipment in great shape
- Volunteer fire/ambulance service excellent
- Open space

# *DECISION POINT LLC*

## Group 3

- Stability
  - Population
  - Tax base
  - Financial (Municipal)
- Educational System
  - STEM Academies
  - Arts program
  - Culinary
- Thriving retail district
  - Newington Center
  - Berlin Turnpike
  - Banking
- Parks & Rec Dept.
  - Programs (Summer)
  - One of oldest in State
  - Facilities ( Parks)
- Location
  - Proximity to Hartford
  - Central
- Library
- CT Fastrak
  - Transportation – commuting to/from
  - Site locations

## Opportunities:

### Group 1

- Get the State to give us the Cedarcrest hospital
- Master plan redevelopment of town center, including Keeney, Lowery, HH
- Move Ruth Chris to downtown
- Get CL&P to underground wires along Berlin TPK and other retail areas
- Regionalize more services
- Expand/improve/renovate town facilities and hire additional staff
- Building multi-use paths through parks and open space
  - Link to busway multi-use path
- Location
- Stability
  - Socio-Economic
  - Government

### Group 2

- Recreate Town Center
- Create another town center
- Rebuild all our schools
- Borrow money short term
- All get along
- Re-align Alumni Road
- Good Media representation

# DECISION POINT LLC

## Group 3

- Hire an HR person for the Town Manager
- Combine Park & Rec Dept. with the Highway Dept.
- Start an electrical audit to decrease cost of service to meters with no power
- Proceed with all construction school projects
- Expand and further develop existing town center
- Let the Volunteer Ambulance group be on their own
- Town police cruisers should turn off engines on construction jobs
- Evaluation of town employees
- Move the bus garage to Alumni Road
- Bonus for outstanding employees
- End Cedar Mountain
- Move P&R to National Welding site
- Accessibility to town hall campus

**Aspirations** - Goals that we commit to accomplishing in the short term (1-18 months) or long term (1 ½ years – 5 years)

- **Short Term Goals:**
  - Referendum for a town hall/community center
  - Analyze town/B.O.E. for consolidation opportunities
  - Solidify employee evaluation/reward process
  - Complete Phase 1 – National Welding site
  - Redo roof of Kellogg Eddy House
  - Regionalization of dispatch
  - Select marketing firm for Busway, etc. to tell Town story better
  - Plan implementation of parking lots for 10 mile walking/biking track along Busway
  - New employee contracts in place that reflect current economic standing
  - Negotiate with DOT for Alumni Road
  - Look at other alternatives for short term financial projects
  - Discuss with State the opportunity to acquire their surplus property (e.g. Cedarcrest Hospital)
  - Continue intelligently addressing public safety issues in town
  - Complete study on and establish direction for Churchill/Mill Parks
  - Closely monitor Fastrak construction to ensure no adverse impact to town
- **Long Tern Goals**
  - Finish parking lot for walking/biking path
  - Redevelopment of Food Mart and surrounding areas (Hartford Hospital property)
  - Complete Phase 2 of National Welding site – with the transfer to private sector development
  - Rebuild town hall/community center
  - Implement all consolidation initiatives
  - Get financial resources to renovate schools
  - Implement proper zoning for Newington Junction, Fenn Road and Cedar Road
  - Implement new bus garage
  - Renovate public works garage (could take longer than 5 years to accomplish)
  - Complete restoration of historic homes
  - Develop Alumni Road