

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM THREE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIRMAN THOMAS SHIELDS
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL GERHART
COMMISSIONER DAVID MARSDEN – ALTERNATE
COMMISSIONER JAMES MAROCCHINI
COMMISSIONER MARY NIRO
COMMISSIONER GREG POLK

ABSENT

COMMISSIONER THOMAS BOWEN
COMMISSIONER KEVIN CHICK
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL LONGO
COMMISSIONER FERNANDO ROSA

ALSO PRESENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
TOWN PLANNER – ED MEEHAN

II. MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2010

Commissioner Marocchini made a motion to accept the October 6, 2010 minutes and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COSTELLO ROAD, HOLMES ROAD AND MOUNTAIN ROAD
INDUSTRIAL PARK SIGNS

Mr. Meehan reported that both the Holmes road and Mountain road sign replacements are in production and the Costello road directory sign will require approval of the Town Planning and zoning commission because it is on the town right-of-way. Mr. Meehan met with Footprints representative Scott Cohen to determine a possible location for the directory sign. It appears relocating to the south side of Costello Road is an option. The

owners of the GoodWill property were contacted to discuss any potential conflict. Mr. Meehan will keep the commission informed of any new developing information.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF COMMISSIONER BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Commissioner Polk reported that renovations are continuing on the new Irish restaurant in the Town center, delaying the opening for at least two weeks.

Chairman Shields added that the proposed new busway transit system is on hold due to the outcome of the recent state-wide election and it may change to a high speed railway form of transportation.

Chairman Shields also communicated that the federal brownfields fund may be cut and hinder the progress of the National Welding remediation project.

B. STATUS OF MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASES I & II

Mr. Meehan passed out the budget spread sheet as of October 18, 2010 summarizing the expenditures including \$19,951.82 that has not yet been committed, with one small change order to come in this week for a small corrective, touch-up paving matter. Pending are approximately half a dozen small tasks such as utility pole removal, checking catch basins and paper work submission, etc., with the final total of almost \$1.8 million dollars being allocated for the completed project.

C. STATUS OF MARKET SQUARE STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Mr. Meehan provided a Market Square Streetscape Options Matrix prepared by Milone & MacBroom for members of the commission. Chairman Shields encouraged members to attend the next meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Committee on Monday, November 8, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Mr. Meehan also provided a colored rendition of the street scape view which he hung up and explained the details of the project, including the issue of one way or two way traffic flow options.

D. NATIONAL WELDING PROPERTY

Mr. Meehan noted that they are still trying to find redevelopment funds for the remediation of the National Welding site, adding that at this time of the year Newington puts together its long range capital budget and Mr. Meehan requested that \$250,000.00 be allocated in the CIP budget for the National Welding project as seed money for grants or partnering private developers. Mr. Meehan added that this issue may be something that the Town Council will look at funding over multiple fiscal years because it could be difficult the next few years for State discretionary funds.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons encouraged members of the Economic Development Commission to attend the November 8, 2010 meeting regarding the Downtown Revitalization Committee's presentation of Market Square, along with the interested citizens of Newington. She also expressed gratitude for this commission's labor.

VII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Town Engineering staff went door to door today on Market Square, handing out 8-1/2x11 renderings of the proposed Market Square Street Scape Improvements and meeting notice for November 8th.

Chairman Shields reported a petition from a business owner on Market Square supporting one way traffic and angle parking preference. Mr. Meehan added that a traffic study would also be required to help settle this issue, and it would have to go before this commission, the Downtown Revitalization Committee and to the Town Council, in order to iron out the logistical issues.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marocchini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polk seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary