

**Downtown Revitalization Committee**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 8, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Newington Town Hall  
Town Council Chambers

- I. **Roll Call:** Chairman McBride convened the Committee at 6:00 p.m. In addition to Mr. McBride, Committee members present were Mr. Lenares, Mr. Marocchini, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Banach and Mr. Gerhart.

**Others Present:** Town Planner Ed Meehan and Town Engineer, Anthony Ferraro. Also present, Milone and Mac Broom consultant, Gary Fontanella.

II. **Public Participation**

Chairman McBride stated that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to listen to business and property owners for their ideas and opinions on design options of two-way traffic or one-way traffic.

Mr. Fontanella of Milone and Mac Broom provided a summary of the pros and cons of each option. (Refer to the attached Concept Section dated 10-27-10)

Jay Amoruso – Keep two-way traffic flow, confusion and loss of customers is a concern. Just improve what is there now, limit construction impacts on businesses.

Bruce Mortensen – Best option is to maintain what is there now, control costs, opinion that the improvement expenses will not benefit businesses.

Gregg Polk – Make improvements that will bring new customers to Market Square. More pedestrian activity is good; provide electrical service for street events.

Dr. Leckowicz – Two-way traffic is the better option, do not narrow travel lane or parallel parking widths. Two (2) hour parking needs enforcement, street trees need to be evaluated: too large and too many.

Rick Simons – Two-way traffic should be maintained, leave lane width as is, make necessary improvements to sidewalks and curbing, enforce parking and speeding by police department. Street lighting needs to be improved.

Mae Kenny – Sidewalks need to be repaired; several trip hazards because of roots. Two-way traffic is better than one-way. There should be locations for handicapped accessible parking, bike lane and bike rack.

Tony DeLucco – Market Square should have cross walk at mid-block to connect to new sidewalk adjacent to 100 Market Square into parking lot. Street lighting along south side is not adequate, large trees block lighting of sidewalks. Plan should address drainage control. Wider sidewalks are okay but impacts on adjacent property need to be considered.

Val French – Two-way traffic is preferred, maintain 5 foot sidewalk width on both sides, do only what is necessary and control costs.

Rose Lyons – Two-way is more practical, better crosswalks are needed. Should be locations for handicapped parking and drop off areas. Enforce two hour parking limit, better lighting and electrical for street festival events. The two-way option concept does not address the problems at the Webster Bank entrance drive.

Joe Cody – Two-way traffic should be maintained. Control expenditures, improve lighting.  
112 Market Square Business owner – Concerned that construction will shut down access to his business and be a disruption that is unnecessary. Town should control two hour parking and skateboards in parking lot.

### **III. Committee Comments**

Chairman McBride – The design process will not be rushed, Committee wants to hear from businesses. The comments to limit expenditures, control costs and improve only what is necessary will be discussed.

Myra Cohen – More public comments needed, encourage businesses to attend Committee meetings and speak out.

Jim Marocchini – Agreed better lighting is needed; a slightly wider sidewalk of maybe 3 feet instead of 5 feet for lighting placement would be less expensive.

Tom Shields – Attracting pedestrians is a goal of the enhanced streetscape. This is a chance to slow traffic down and make the street safer.

### **IV. Adjournment**

Mr. McBride closed the Special Meeting at 7:10 p.m. and encouraged business and property owners to attend the Committee's future meetings. The concept options plans are available for public review in the Town Planner's office.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan  
Town Planner

Town Clerk  
Town Website