

Downtown Revitalization Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Newington Town Hall, Conference Room 1

- I. **Roll Call:** Chairman McBride, Mr. Banach, Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Marocchini, Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Shields.

Others Present: Acting Town Engineer, Chris Greenlaw, Town Planner, Ed Meehan, Gary Fontanella and Gabe Almeida of Milone & MacBroom, and Armand Nunes, project contractor.

II. **Minutes:**

- A. May 16, 2011 Regular Meeting – Mrs. Cohen moved approval, seconded by Mr. Banach and approved.
- B. June 27, 2011 Special Meeting – Mr. Shields moved approval, seconded by Mr. Marocchini and approved.
- C. August 22, 2011 – Special Meeting – Mr. Bottalico moved approval, seconded by Mrs. Cohen and approved.

III. **Public Participation**

Attorney Vincent Sabatini, 1150 Main Street, spoke to the Committee about tree removal on Market Square. Attorney Sabatini stated he was unaware that property owners could request removal of trees from their property. He requested that the 2 trees on Main Street and the 2 on Market Square be removed.

Mr. Greenlaw reported that he and Tony Ferraro met with Attorney Sabatini to review his request. The cost to remove a tree and replace with a new tree is \$3,700. The trees on Main Street are outside the Market Square project limits. Gary Fontanella explained that the streetscape plan selected trees for removal based on their location, existing damage to adjacent sidewalk, utility clearance and the attempt to maintain a balanced tree canopy. 19 trees were identified for removal and replanting, 2 additional trees were added, these are located in front of Premier Cleaners. The new replanted trees will be placed in the public right of way. Mr. Nunes stated that if the trees on Main Street are removed, the tree wells could be filled by using salvaged existing pavers, this would ensure a match of color and brick style.

The consensus of the Committee was that the 2 smaller trees on Market Square should not be removed. The trees on Main Street are large and interfere with roof gutters, the tree roots are damaging pavers; these could be removed. The Committee requested that Attorney Sabatini's request be forwarded to the Town Council for its September 27th agenda with the recommendation that the Town Manager be authorized to work out a mutual agreement for removal of the 2 trees on Main Street.

IV. **Market Square Streetscape Project Status**

Armand Nunes distributed copies of the project work schedule flow chart which identified 30 task items and the completion date for December 1, 2011. (see attached)

The initial start up was slowed somewhat because of delays in getting granite and pavers certified. These items have now been approved by the project engineer and the granite will be onsite this week. Mr. Shields pointed out parking lot pavement work at Webster Bank and the need to match new drive and sidewalk. Mr. Nunes stated he would coordinate with bank contractor so the driveway apron could be replaced before Webster Bank does its paving. Mr. Shields stated the contact at the bank is Dave Williams.

V. Public Participation

Val French, Downtown Business Association, requested information on expected progress of work as far as holding October 27th Trick-or-Treat event on Market Square. This occurs in the late afternoon while still daylight. Mr. Nunes stated that work areas are secured at the end of each day to protect the public.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Marocchini moved adjournment at 6:30 p.m. Seconded and approved.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website