

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF CHAIRPERSONS
JULY 20, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bates, Hudecek, Pritchard (Sat for Sherrard), Rafferty, Stebbins
Staff: Strother, Silsby
Also present: Schneider

Acting Chairperson Hudecek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 20, 2009

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 20, 2009 as written.

Motion made by Rafferty, seconded by Bates, so voted 3 in favor, 2 abstentions (Hudecek, Stebbins). Motion Passed.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Staff suggested, since Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works was present, that the Landfill Operations Update be given first and the members agreed with changing the order of the agenda.

1. Landfill Operations Update

Public Works Director Gary Schneider gave a presentation about the Town's landfills, noting that about only two landfills exist in the State of Connecticut. He spoke about the issues with the privately owned Putnam Ash Landfill. He explained about residential bulky waste and Groton's Transfer Station on Flanders Road, which receives approximately 21,000 cars per year. Schneider stated that acceptable waste is taken in and shipped to Preston at a tipping rate of \$60 per ton, with other waste being shipped elsewhere. The Preston plant burns 690 tons per day, which reduces waste at about 75%. He referred to the disposal of metal, brush, leaves, e-waste, and special waste. Background information was given about the processing that takes place at the Southeastern Connecticut Resource Recovery System (SCRRA) and Groton's involvement with them. He referred to the amount of power being generated and selling power to CL&P through 2017, per contract. Schneider spoke about the minimum commitment relating to the commercial sector, residential entities, fees, how waste is broken out, hazardous waste, bulky waste items, and recycling. Additional topics related to trash were discussed. Schneider noted that a daytime tour of the waste to energy plant could be arranged for those members interested.

Potholes around town were discussed.

2. 2009 Legislative Update

Staff distributed a handout that provided an overview from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association regarding legislation which would have impacts on municipalities. She noted that some of the bills have been vetoed by the

Governor and it will take a while longer to determine which bills make it through the entire process. At that time, we will expect an overview from the Town Attorney of the final legislation and how it will impact the town.

3. Downtown Mystic Construction Projects Update

Streetscape - Details were given by Staff about using stimulus funding for assisting in the completion of the electrical undergrounding as part of the Streetscape Project, which will now need to be included in the first phase. She gave an update about the easement process in downtown Mystic, noting that only one owner has not signed an easement.

The estimated timeframe for completion is now fall of 2009 for advertising and work is estimated to start in early spring.

Transportation Study - Staff provided some background information and an update about a Transportation Study, which is being funded from a Congressional earmark received several years ago by Mystic Seaport. This effort is being overseen by the Town of Stonington, with input from the Seaport and Town of Groton. Public involvement is desired in this process, and an advisory committee made up of representatives of Stonington, Groton, the Seaport, Mystic Chamber, the Aquarium, Olde Mistick Village and others will be involved. She explained the remaining process and stated that the scope of work is in the final draft stage. The issue of a potential transit center on or near Coogan Boulevard is being examined. She spoke about the concept design and cost estimates for future funding.

Bridge Rehabilitation Project - Staff gave some background information and an update about the Mystic River Bridge Rehabilitation Project. She spoke about what the new phasing will include. She noted that the bridge project has been coordinated so that the streetscape work in the area of the bridge will be complete before the bridge work begins. Staff gave a breakdown of the timelines related to the proposed work, which is slated to be complete by April 2013.

4. Property Maintenance Issues

Staff spoke about the Fort Hill Property Maintenance Code Ordinance and the need for an appeals agency. She noted that a referral has been sent to the Town Council to create an appeals agency or to use an existing assessment appeals board. Additional details were given. Staff referred to the street numbering project in the Fort Hill home area. Discussion ensued about the possibility of carrying forth this code across the entire town.

An update was given about the Town's action regarding the Chipperini building on Library Street.

5. Identification of Topics for Future Discussion

Subjects requested to be discussed for the next meeting included an overview of the NRZ Property maintenance code; how successful the enforcement has been and what it would take to create a town-wide property maintenance ordinance?

Rafferty inquired about getting more information about the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS) designation process and asked if staff could provide information on what the Town is doing to change the carbon footprint at Town buildings, such as the schools and senior center.

The status of the Central Hall Building was requested.

Clarification was requested regarding the difference between a Mystic Transportation Study completed over the last few years and the one currently being undertaken by the Seaport and Stonington.

V. CHAIRPERSONS UPDATES

Pritchard gave an update about the Merritt Farm property and GOSA's recent involvement with the Planning Commission. The issue appears to be how the trails on the site can be used.

The issue of signage throughout town was discussed, including temporary real estate open house signs and so called "human" signs recently utilized by a local company.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to Adjourn was made by Pritchard, seconded by Stebbins, so voted unanimously at 7:58 p.m.

Prepared by: Robin M. Silsby
Office Assistant II
OPDS