

MINUTES  
PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Regular members present: Munn, Pritchard, Roper, Steinfeld, Sherrard  
Alternate members present: Fitzgerald, Zod  
Absent: Kane  
Staff present: Murphy, Cullen, Oefinger, Norris, Schneider,  
Greenleaf (6:16), Doolittle

Chairman Sherrard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. ITEM OF BUSINESS

1. 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program – Review and Recommendations

Mark Oefinger, Town Manager, thanked the Commission for attending tonight's meeting and discussed how it is going to be a challenging year with the Town Council asking for a 0% increase. He stated that it's going to be a tough year for the CIP, and that if a project cannot be done in FYE 2011, the project will have to be pushed to the next year.

The Commission reviewed each project with Staff, and supported the CIP, as presented, with the following comments. Items are listed by project number and letter subsection referencing the draft CIP.

1. Roads, A) Pavement Management Program Implementation – Mr. Schneider detailed the roads in most need of repaving and the various processes that go into doing so. The Commission and Mr. Schneider discussed how we address the equitable repair of the roads with the City of Groton and Groton Long Point. Mr. Schneider explained how they prioritize the roads that need work and their proximity to other roads that need work as well. The Commission felt that the number one priority should be completing Poquonnock Road. They also recommended that if the Town cuts their budget by 50%, then the City of Groton and Groton Long Point cut their project's by 50% as well.

1. Roads, C) Traffic Signal Replacement and Upgrade – Mr. Schneider explained which traffic signals are up for replacement, upgrade or removal. The Commission and Mr. Schneider discussed requesting the Submarine Base to pay for the light at their main entrance, Crystal Lake Road and Military Highway. The Commission felt that the Town should ask the State to contribute to the Crystal Lake Road project.

1. Roads, G) Retaining Wall Replacement - Military Highway – Mr. Schneider explained the need for replacement and/or repairs to the retaining walls on Military Highway and recommended, for liability purposes, that this be a priority and the Commission agreed.

1. Roads, I) Thames Street Rehabilitation – Mr. Oefinger stated that this is just a placeholder and that there are no plans for the upcoming year. The

Commission and Mr. Oefinger discussed why the referendum did not pass and offered up some suggestions for the future.

2. Drainage and Watershed Protection, B) Local Drainage Improvements/ New Installations – Mr. Schneider explained a drainage issue at Starr Hill Road and the Commission felt that this should be a priority.

2. Drainage and Watershed Protection, D) Judson Avenue Drainage – The issue of basement flooding and drainage system design was noted as a problem since the subdivision was constructed. The Commission felt that this item should stay as is.

3. Sidewalks, B) New Sidewalk Construction, Route 1 Downtown – Mr. Schneider explained the safety issues with the existing sidewalk at Route 1 and Buddington Road and explained the recommended changes. The Commission was in favor of these recommendations for safety reasons, and felt that this should be a priority and suggested that a sidewalk to in fill between High Meadow Lane and Ice House Lane be added.

3. Sidewalks, C) New Sidewalk Construction, Route 1, Mystic – Staff explained the need for a sidewalk at this part of town and the Commission felt that this was high priority item.

3. Sidewalks, E) New Sidewalk Construction, Route 12/Crystal Lake Road – Staff explained the proposed sidewalk/bikeway and the Commission endorsed this item.

3. Sidewalks, F) East/West Bicycle Route – Staff detailed the proposed bike trail from the Town of Groton to the City. The Commission expressed their support for the many benefits that this proposal could have and endorsed this item.

4. Parks & Recreation, B) Trail Improvement Program – Staff explained the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan and explained the need for a bridge at Beebe Pond. The Commission felt that this was an important item.

4. Parks & Recreation, D) Open Space Acquisition and Development – Staff explained the purpose of this fund and the Commission agreed that it should be funded as is and that it is an important item.

4. Parks & Recreation, F) Golf Course Improvement Plan – Mr. Schneider explained the needs of the golf course, in particular cart paths and tee renovations. The Commission questioned subsidizing fees and Mr. Oefinger discussed how the operations of the golf course pays for itself. The Commission's consensus was to leave this item as is.

5. Education, A) All Schools, School Security – Mr. Greenleaf explained the safety issues that the schools have in reference to front entrance ways and cameras. The Commission felt that this was a priority.

5. Education, B) Fitch High School – Mr. Greenleaf explained the need for a new football field and the recommended artificial turf. The

Commission and Staff discussed the safety of a turf field and other ways the community might benefit from the new field.

5. Education, F) SB Butler Elementary School – Wes Greenleaf discussed the continuing drainage issues at the school and the need to complete the project.

6. Public Buildings, B) Police Station – The Commission and Staff discussed whether Federal stimulus funds could be used for this project, Mr. Oefinger did not believe they could.

6. Public Buildings, D) Town Hall – Mr. Oefinger explained the need for more space and the proposed reconfiguration, in particular the probate court. The Commission and Staff discussed seeking partial reimbursement from neighboring towns for the anticipated regional probate court facility.

6. Public Buildings, F5) Town Hall Annex Complex, Town Hall Annex – Mr. Schneider explained that the Annex needs a new partial roof and the Commission felt that this was an important item.

6. Public Buildings, K) Construction of Permanent Vehicle Wash Facility – Mr. Schneider explained the immediate need for an inside vehicle wash area. The Commission questioned if the City of Groton had anything that we could share or if they would be interested in splitting the cost of a new building. The Commission decided to leave this item on but realized it would not be feasible in this fiscal year.

6. Public Buildings, L) Firing Range Mechanical/Electrical Upgrade – The Commission suggested writing a letter to the CO of the Submarine Base firing range to see if some sort of arrangement could be made so that the Town could use their new facility.

7. Technology, C) Town Fire/EMS Radio System – Staff explained the proposed improvements to the communications system and the Commission thought this was an important and beneficial item.

8. Economic Development – The Commission did not feel there was a need to add any money to the Economic Assistance Fund in this lean year.

Mr. Oefinger stated that it was his goal to add money to the Capital Reserve Fund, which hasn't been happening the last few years. He stated his main concern is to do what is best for the long term future of the Town.

The Commission reviewed and had no comment on the projects under Water Pollution Control Facility and Miscellaneous.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. made by Sherrard, seconded by Roper, so voted unanimously.

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Jeffrey Pritchard, Secretary  
Planning Commission

Prepared by Katie Doolittle  
Office Assistant II