

MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Regular members present: Munn, Pritchard, Steinfeld, Sherrard
Alternate members present: Fitzgerald, Zod, Kane (5:16)
Staff present: Cullen, Murphy, Norris, Oefinger, Robarge,
Schneider, Trask

Chairman Sherrard called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

II. ITEM OF BUSINESS

1. 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Program – Review and Recommendations

Mark Oefinger, Town Manager, addressed and thanked the Commission for reviewing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He gave a brief overview of the CIP package noting that it is a planning document intended to identify projects that the Town needs to consider in the next 6 years.

The Commission reviewed each project with Staff, and supported the CIP, as presented, noting the following:

1. Roads, D) Route 1 – Claude Chester / Vergennes Court - Town – Mr. Schneider indicated that the traffic study done for the other two exits to this development showed that they can handle the additional traffic. The commission supported this item.

1. Roads, I) Reconstruction of Intersection Crystal Lake Road/Military Highway – Mr. Oefinger noted that this project is moving along and will be happening within the next few years. Much of this project will be paid for through Federal and State funds. The Commission and Staff discussed the multi-use trail location and connections.

2. Drainage and Watershed Protection, D) Judson Avenue Drainage – Mr. Schneider discussed the project details and noted that this might not fix the problem of localized flooding in residents' basements. This item is in the CIP for clarification from the Town Council and RTM and is a bonded project that must go to the voters.

2. Drainage and Watershed Protection, D) Fishtown Road Improvements – Mr. Schneider discussed trying to identify the alternatives for the stormwater drainage system since the reoccurring flooding events in recent years.

3. Sidewalks, A) Replacement Sidewalk Construction – Route 1, Mystic – The Commission and staff discussed the material for the proposed sidewalk.

4. Parks & Recreation, A) Facilities Improvements – Staff and the Commission discussed location of the Merritt Fields. Mr. Oefinger noted that Groton is currently experiencing a field shortage and this seeks to improve that situation. The Commission supported this item.

4. Parks & Recreation, D) Open Space Acquisition and Development – Mr. Oefinger noted that the remaining balance for this item will be emptied this year as the match for acquisition of the Spicer Property that is already underway. The Commission is very supportive of open space and would like to see this item continue.

4. Parks & Recreation, E) Golf Course Improvement Plan – Mr. Oefinger noted that they are seeking to make improvements to generate more revenue and to remain competitive.

4. Parks and Recreation, F) William Seely School – The Commission and Staff discussed the operating costs of the vacant building.

4. Parks & Recreation, G) Aquatics Center – Commissioner Munn noted that an aquatics center is the number one request from residents. Members discussed issues relating to the proposal and Mr. Oefinger discussed the past situations that the Town has encountered including a proposed pool failed and that this item will address finding out what exactly the residents want.

5. Education, B) Asbestos Removal – Mr. Oefinger noted that this has to be completed regardless of what is decided with the buildings. The commission supported this item.

5. Education, N) Energy Efficiency Measures – Mr. Robarge discussed the cost savings measures that will be undertaken. The commission suggested writing out terms like “q” (quantity) to quantify the savings for those unfamiliar with the CIP format, and this subject.

6. Public Buildings, B) Police Station – Mr. Oefinger noted that this will have to go to the voters for authorization in November but will probably be moved out a few years.

6. Public Buildings, D) Town Hall – Mr. Schneider noted that during Storm Sandy they were sandbagging the windows and concerned about the location of the IT Department being in the basement. The Commission concurred with this project priority.

6. Public Buildings, G) Vacated School Properties – Mr. Oefinger noted that this may change after a discussion is had regarding the disposition of Fitch Middle School.

6. Public Buildings, H) Town Hall Annex Complex - Annex – Mr. Schneider and the Commission discussed the substantive benefits of water conditioning to extend the life of the boilers.

8. Economic Development, B) Flanders Road Utility Installation – Mr. Oefinger noted that this item will have to go to a bond referendum. The

Commission and Staff discussed the location of the utilities in relation to the overpass of I-95.

MOTION: The commission supported this item and recommended that it move forward.

Motion made by Pritchard, seconded by Steinford, so voted unanimously.

8. Economic Development, C) Economic Assistance Fund – The Commission recommended adding \$100,000 to fund.

10. Miscellaneous, A) Mystic Education Center – Mr. Oefinger discussed the site and noted that this item is to conduct a review of the property in relation to Town use.

Mr. Oefinger and Staff thanked the Commission for their input into this year's CIP.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. made by Steinford, seconded by Pritchard, so voted unanimously.

Jeffrey Pritchard, Secretary
Planning Commission

Prepared by Katie Trask
Office Assistant II