

APPROVED

Special Meeting Minutes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
POLICE ADVISORY BOARD/TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

6:00 PM

Site Walk

Riggio Building Parking Lot –

Walking tour of Town Center with Traffic Engineer, Norm Garrick.

SITE WALK:

In Attendance TCRC/EDC: Marilyn Ozols, Jim Crawford, Darlene Briggs, Libby Waldron, John Leake

In Attendance Police Advisory Board/Traffic Authority: Bonnie Palermo, George Rehberg, Sal Adorno, Michael Polo

Also in Attendance: Noel Bishop, First Selectman; Meg Parulis, Town Planner; Norm Garrick, State Traffic Engineer; Katie Kelemen, Recording Secretary; Lisa DeMaria, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order – Ms. Ozols called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The tour began with the group walking from the Riggio Building located at 1163 Boston Post Road, to the intersection of South Main Street and Boston Post Road, where discussion followed with Mr. Garrick regarding site line issues from different directions, the number of lanes for travel and the length of time it takes for the crosswalk and traffic lights to change.

Ms. Palermo explained to Mr. Garrick that the Police Advisory Board/Traffic Authority had discussed an idea for turning Norris Avenue into a one-way street from the train station to the Boy Scout Hall. From Boy Scout Hall to Old Clinton Road, Norris Avenue would be two-way traffic. The Commission feels that this would slow and reduce traffic that now uses Norris Avenue as a cut through to avoid lights on Boston Post Road.

The group proceeded east along the north side of Essex Road. There was discussion regarding the UCONN Collaborative ideas to narrow this portion of Essex Road. Mr. Garrick studied the immediate area. Ms. Parulis explained to Mr. Garrick that Essex Road is a state owned road. Ms. Parulis stated that the long term plan was to install sidewalks to connect the train station and Norris Road to the green either on the west side of Essex Road or connecting to the sidewalks located in front of the Gowrie Building at 36 Westbrook Place, with a crosswalk. Ms. Parulis went on to explain the Master Plan for the immediate area.

Mr. Garrick asked Ms. Ozols to define the area of Town Center. Ms. Ozols stated that for the purposes of the TCRC/EDC Commission, the center extended from the library and post office on Boston Post Road to the Mulvey Municipal Center.

The group crossed Westbrook Place at the north node of the green and headed north toward the train station. Ms. Palermo pointed out a state right of way marker located at 57 Essex Road, which appears to be approximately 27 feet from the edge of the street. Mr. Garrick took photos of Essex Road looking north toward the highway.

The group stopped at the intersection of Norris Avenue and Essex Road. Mr. Garrick studied the area. There was discussion about the previous train station, the possibility of a traffic light and the speed of the vehicles traveling through the area.

The group headed south to the green along the east side of Westbrook Place. Ms. Ozols and Mr. Garrick discussed the layout of the curbing around surrounding the green and the possibility of planting trees and creating parking on both sides of Westbrook Place. Mr. Garrick estimated the road to be 35 feet on Westbrook Place and stated that there would be plenty of room to create parking without the cutouts in the curb. Mr. Garrick stated that

the area did not feel like a town center because traffic moved too fast. Parking would slow traffic down and that was a first step in creating a village atmosphere.

As the group headed up Knothe Road, Ms. Ozols and Ms. Parulis explained the Master Plan and potential use of the area. Ms. Parulis explained the idea of connecting the Knothe Road area to three parcels on Boston Post Road to utilize existing parking and allow vehicles to park once and have access to all of the town center businesses.

The group crossed Westbrook Place at the intersection of Boston Post Road and walked toward the west node of the green where the group crossed Boston Post Road to the Riggio Building. There was discussion regarding the design of Essex Road from the train station to town center. Mr. Garrick stated that currently Essex Road has the feel of a highway due to the guardrails, shoulders and speed of traffic and suggested that there needs to be better connections for pedestrians. Mr. Garrick will meet with Peter Miniutti of the UCONN Collaborative and discuss the Master Plan. There will be a follow-up joint meeting between the TCRC/EDC and the Police Advisory Board/Traffic Authority.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa DeMaria, Recording Secretary