

September 11, 2006

Present: Liddy Adams, Don Brigham, Wayne Hileman, Jean Suddaby, Sue Werkhoven

Guests: None

Visitors: First Selectman Dick Sears

Call to Order: Chairman Wayne Hileman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of July 24, 2006 Meeting:

Sue Werkhoven made a motion to accept the July 24 minutes. Jean Suddaby seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Inclusion of Items Not on Agenda:

Don Brigham said he originally thought that the Depot Study could best be implemented on an incremental basis over a long time frame. But now he feels that implementation would be better done in three stages: short term projects; longer term projects; and projects best left for the distant future.

What prompted the change in his thinking was when he took the walking tour before one of the recent "conversations" the Planning Commission held for residents. He saw how a pedestrian way, parking, and the river front loop were interrelated. He would like to see decisions about these made first, in the short-term project phase. Sue Werkhoven agreed it would be good to have a clear idea what these projects would look like. Don Brigham felt that specific details were important, including cost estimates. Jean Suddaby said she felt she may have missed an opportunity during the walking tour and afterwards at the public discussion to elicit comments about senior housing. Wayne Hileman said that perhaps the Housing Commission needs to share recommendations about affordable housing with the Planning Commission at their next meeting. Don Brigham felt that doing this would help define and clarify the various ways the Housing Commission could be helpful to the Planning Commission. Don Brigham and Wayne Hileman decided to attend the next Planning Commission meeting.

Housing Fund Ordinance:

The Housing Commission members discussed and edited Section III of the proposed ordinance, which allows for recommending expenditures for "----the costs associated with the investigation, appraisal, acquisition, options, administration, fees and maintenance costs relating to parcels of land, both improved and unimproved, or development rights, easements, deed restrictions, interests or rights therein, the use of which shall be limited to retention or designation of the parcel for its long-term use in providing affordable housing as defined by state statute". (Section 111.B.1.) The members expressed concern over the clarity of the expenditure process, specifically the "path" that a proposed expenditure would follow towards approval. Don Brigham felt that any ambiguity in this process could lead to misinterpretation. Jean Suddaby thought a more concise rewording of the existing points would improve this section. Wayne Hileman offered to re-edit Section III with these goals in mind and forward the revisions to the members as soon as possible.

"Free Cut for Affordable Housing Ordinance (PA CT06-97):

The state of Connecticut has passed this statute to support towns in providing affordable housing. (See August 21 Housing minutes.)

The Housing Commission is still unclear about the implications of this state statute for the Town of Washington and feels further study is needed by various commissions and boards.

Depot Study:

Additional revisions were made to the Senior Housing Survey. Liddy Adams said it was not the time yet to be thinking about ways to provide for senior housing. First the data must be gathered to determine what residents feel is needed. Wayne Hileman suggested having a few survey drop boxes available at such places as the drug store and the senior center in addition to the mailing. Wayne Hileman will

compile the discussed revisions and forward them to the members for their comment.

Adjournment:

Wayne Hileman moved to adjourn the meeting and Jean Suddaby seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the Land Use Room, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patte Doran