

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board & Village Trustees
December 14, 2016
Steele Community Room ~ 28 North Main Street

Present: D. Schneider, Chair; C. Viens and J. Brown, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, Village President; L. Sayah and N. Sherman, Trustees; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Steve Van Esen, Zoe Gordon, Laura Parette, Ken Belliveau, Jeff Larkin, Anthony Mazzilli, Rick Bryant, Mary Koen, and Martha Staskus.

P. H. Flanders called the meeting of the Village Trustees to order at 7:07pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC

No public comment.

PRESENTATION ON RESULTS OF DOWNTOWN PARKING REPORT

N. Sherman explained that over the past two years 19 volunteers have gathered parking data. She then gave a background of the Parking Committees work. The Committee came up with short and long-term recommendations and the Village parking ordinance was amended by the Trustees. The Trustees wanted a professional study done, and secured Stantec Consulting to assist with a study. Rick Bryant of Stantec presented the study and stated that the principal findings are that downtown parking operates at capacity, and fringe parking does not. He then reviewed several areas in the Village that were studied. The recommendations are to preserve access to bank lots, develop fringe parking for workers, and retain 51 South Main Street until after the Main Street Reconstruction. He then went through the study process which included counting cars and studying the number, and making recommendations.

R. Bryant reviewed parking patterns, hourly utilization by lot, and parking trends. The bottom line is that public spaces are being utilized at the target of about 85%. Vulnerabilities include loss of bank parking, Main Street Reconstruction, loss of 51 South Main Street and future growth.

Other ideas include enhancement of the pedestrian experience, communications, retaining parking at 51 South Main Street, and monitoring future utilization. R. Bryant recommended doing another simpler study after the Main Street project is completed.

Findings and recommendations from the study: the overall parking supply is adequate, no new capacity is needed, and supply needs to be managed to optimize the visitor experience.

The volunteers that worked the parking study were thanked by both Boards.

The meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 8:12pm.

C. Viens made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED REVISED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Zoe Gordon was present to review the latest draft of the revised economic development strategic plan. The Board members were previously supplied with the draft plan.

She stated that one of the biggest changes is a tonal change, whereby Waterbury as a community can determine the long-term vision. She tried to receive input from all of the stakeholders. This plan contributes language that will help with rewrites to the municipal plan. The plan needs to create a road map for potential new businesses to Waterbury.

Z. Gordon stated she has seen other Towns investing in economic development, and Vermont is getting competitive. Waterbury has been successful in attracting large important businesses. Waterbury can leverage their brands to increase businesses (beer, coffee, recreation). Waterbury is successful at not relying on any one business or industry for survival.

The Main Street reconstruction project is coming up, and Waterbury needs to be supportive of its businesses. The plan points out areas of greater efficiencies.

Challenges include the Main Street project and Route 100 construction. P. H. Flanders stated that another challenge is merger of the Town and Village and extending the sewer system, but not at the expense of the current users. Another big issue is the Village police department, in that the department does not extend to the Town.

Concerns about overdevelopment were discussed. Z. Gordon stated that State regulations are strong. The WADC thinks about development very carefully. Zoning is also involved at the local level. The issue of merger was discussed at length.

CONSIDER MANAGER'S EVALUATION BY THE BOARDS

At 8:59pm, N. Sherman made a motion to move into Executive Session to conduct a personnel evaluation of an employee. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously. C. Viens made a like motion on behalf of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously. The Municipal Manager was invited to attend the Executive Session.


The Boards exited Executive Session at 10:47pm. There was no action taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48pm.


Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk


Approved on: Dec 28, 2016



P. Howard Flanders



Natalie Sherman



Lawrence Sayah