

**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021, 6 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Mayor and Chair Shari Cantor.

B. Attendees: In attendance were Mayor Shari Cantor, Deputy Mayor Leon Davidoff, Councilor Lee Gold, Councilor Beth Kerrigan, Town Manager Matthew Hart, Deputy Corporation Counsel Gina Varano, Acting Community Planning and Economic Development Director Duane Martin, Town Planner Todd Dumais, Building Inspector Tim Mikloiche, Economic Development Coordinator Kristen Gorski, Assistant Town Engineer Greg Sommer, Joe Balskus of VHB Consulting, Charles Barker, James Brennan, and Daniel Johnson.

2. Communications

A. February 10, 2020 Minutes: The minutes for February 10, 2020 were approved without objection.

3. Business

A. Update on North Main Street Road Diet Study: Town Manager Hart introduced Town Engineer Martin who provided some introductory comments explaining how the study is being conducted. Mr. Balskus presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the project and the progress being made on it, as well as laying out the planned next steps. At Mayor Cantor's request, Town Manager Hart provided some history and context for the project.

Mayor Cantor opened the floor to questions. Councilor Kerrigan posed two questions, one concerning the planned islands and another concerning the intended purpose of the planned 4-foot road shoulders, both of which were addressed by Mr. Balskus. Councilor Gold posed a question regarding whether or not a study had been conducted to determine how the project would affect vehicle collisions, which was addressed by both Town Engineer Martin and Mr. Balskus. Deputy Mayor Davidoff posed concerns regarding how traffic might be affected by different sizes and types of vehicles, as well as requesting clarification on whether the shoulder would be a bike lane, and both issues were addressed by Mr. Balskus. Mayor Cantor inquired as to the scope of the planned public meetings on the project, and Town Engineer Martin explained that the current plan is to hold just one meeting. Mayor Cantor once again inquired about the possibility of a designated bike lane and Mr. Balskus explained the space constraints that make the inclusion of a bike lane problematic. Town Engineer Martin made closing remarks supporting the plan.

1 Councilor Kerrigan inquired about the planned speed limit and if it will affect travel times in
2 that area, which was addressed by Mr. Balskus. Mayor Cantor posed a question about
3 intended signage and Mr. Balskus explained that they would look into it and address it at the
4 public meeting.

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6 B. Proposal to Establish a Technical Advisory Group for Affordable Housing: Town
7 Manager Hart provided some contexts for the proposal that included the reasoning behind the
8 proposal and the who may be good candidates for the group. Town Planner Dumais
9 expanded upon Town Manager Hart's comments and provided additional details about the
10 reasoning behind the proposal. Mayor Cantor expressed her support. When Mayor Cantor
11 opened the floor to questions or comments, Councilor Kerrigan expressed her support. Town
12 Planner Dumais added that they may have their first ADU application ready by the end of the
13 month.

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15 C. Ordinance Establishing a Procedure for the Honorary and Historic Renaming of Public
16 Streets: Town Manager Hart offered some opening remarks before handing things over to
17 Deputy Corporation Counsel Varano who explained the application process for renaming a
18 public street. Councilor Gold posed a question regarding if there was precedence supporting
19 some of the language in the ordinance as well as suggested the possibility of also
20 incorporating the renaming of buildings into the ordinance which were addressed by Town
21 Planner Dumais and Deputy Corporation Counsel Varano respectively. Councilor Gold also
22 requested clarification on what grounds for objection residents may have against the
23 renaming of a street which was addressed by Town Planner Dumais. Deputy Corporation
24 Counsel Varano confirmed with Mayor Cantor that the ordinance is planned to be introduced
25 at the second Town Council meeting.

26 27 **4. Staff Reports**

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29 A. Engineering: Town Engineer Martin gave updates on the Engineering Division's drainage
30 studies and Traffic Calming Program.

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32 B. Economic Development: Economic Development Coordinator Gorski presented a
33 PowerPoint presentation on leasing and business activity, as well as property sales.
34 Deputy Mayor Davidoff requested updates on multiple properties which were addressed
35 by Economic Development Coordinator Gorski. Economic Development Coordinator
36 Gorski provided updates regarding financial support. Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor
37 Kerrigan, and Councilor Gold each took time to commend Economic Development
38 Coordinator Gorski for her work over the past year.

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40 C. Town Planning: Town Planner Dumais provided some information and updates regarding
41 the CRS program, the TOD moratorium, and the status of outdoor dining.

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43 D. Building Inspection: Building Inspector Tim Mikloiche provided updates on the Building
44 Inspection Division, explaining that they have been thriving despite the pandemic.

45 46 **5. Adjournment**

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2 A. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.
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