

ENFIELD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016- REGULAR MEETING  
ENFIELD TOWN HALL – ENFIELD ROOM  
820 ENFIELD STREET, ENFIELD, CT 06082

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Revitalization Strategy Committee was held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at the Enfield Town Hall, Enfield Room, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair, Earl Stallings.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Earl Stallings, Jerry Fitzsimons, Connie Provencher, Colleen Reidy, Mary Scutt, Planning & Zoning, Vice-Chair Ken Edgar, William "Red" Edgar, Town Council.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Peter Bryanton, Director of Community Development, Dawn Hunt, Community Development Secretary.

**ABSENT**

Michael Scalzo, Linda DeGray, Teri Anderson, Bill Lee, Town Council, Jennifer Bruyette, Brent Ciszek, John Foxx, Brittany Heisler, and Michelle Lewandowski.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion was made by Jerry Fitzsimons seconded by Ken Edgar to approve the minutes of June 23, 2016. All in favor, one abstention. **Motion carries 6-0-1.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **State & Town Transit Oriented Development Planning Initiative**  
Peter Bryanton stated that Town Staff joined a conference call with State consultants and officials regarding the development of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan that will look at the economics of each station area along the proposed rail line. Enfield is working on its own plan specific to Enfield. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Peter is giving a tour of 33 N River Street for the state consultants and officials and will show them what's been done in Thompsonville in preparation for the transit center. May partner with state and hold joint public comment sessions.
- **Thompsonville Action Plan Revisions**  
Peter presented the updated Thompsonville Revitalization Action Plan document, noting color-coding to show items added/updated, completed, in progress, or untouched. He urged committee members to review and identify items missing or that can be expanded on, and things that can be done by the group. He recommended that this remain an agenda item to be discussed monthly. Earl encouraged members to review and identify items that the group can begin working on for the next meeting. Peter stated a lot has been done from an infrastructure perspective and not as much marketing. Earl stated we need to engage the community and reach out at town events. Colleen stated a quick project could be the creation of a "Welcome to Thompsonville" brochure that includes a self-guided walking tour of business and landmarks, possibly including a scavenger hunt that, when completed, can be redeemed for a small prize at Town Hall. Members suggested inviting business owners to the meetings to talk about their struggles and ways we can help generate traffic.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **River Access / Thompsonville Greenway Plan**

Peter shared the Hartford Courant article published August 12, 2016 regarding the earmark of federal funds for the River Access project and to complete the bike paths. Staff met with state DOT regarding the scope of work. The scope will be developed by BL Companies and then submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for their approval. The project would complete the bike path from Pearl/Main St down Main to the bridge underpass, over Freshwater Stream, using Asnuntuck underpass archway. The Federal Highway Administration will not allow a pier, but will allow an overlook raised platform vista point and the end of Main St. The bridge on S River will be rebuilt with Bridge Initiative Funds. When the transit center is built, it will include a leg that goes to the vista point. The town received a LOTCIP grant of \$700,000 to extend the bike paths from Franklin and Enfield St to connect to Freshwater Pond paths, then down to the river. The goal is to create a destination for bike riders into Thompsonville. The town has a Complete Streets plan that highlights bike paths and share-the-road for bikers, eventually connecting to bike paths in MA and surrounding towns. Members discussed reaching out to bike groups and avid bikers for input and support and participation in public hearings. Groups from other towns should be encouraged to come in, and also local businesses that may benefit from an influx of bike riders on the new paths, such as bike shops, restaurants, etc. Members discussed pursuing funding options that would allow for a walkway across the river to Suffield as part of the TOD planning. Peter stated all these projects will require public hearings and outreach. Everything is in the early planning stages.

## **REPORT OF TOWN STAFF, Peter Bryanton**

- The town has been awarded a Brownfield grant of ~\$500,000 for remediation of 98 Prospect Street. The next step is to acquire the property and then start cleaning it up.
- The North Central Chamber of Commerce, which is back in Enfield (at Holiday Inn) with a new executive director, is holding a business and economic symposium on 10/27/16. There needs to be a strong town presence at this event – boards, commissions, officials, etc. They are working to rebuild membership. Additional information will be sent to members, as this is also the date of the October ERSC regular meeting. Members discussed the possibility of alternating meeting locations throughout the different villages in town to remind everyone this is “Enfield” revitalization, not just “Thompsonville”.

## **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Pat Gaskell, 94 S River Street - Mr. Gaskell asked, in regards to the bike path coming down Pearl Street off 190, if there will be a designated lane. He was told that Pearl Street would be a share-the-road situation. There will be a designated trail down Franklin Street and Enfield Street that will allow it to be linked up to the path around the pond. There will be clear signage and markings. Mr. Gaskell asked about the other path down Post Office Road and Enfield Street and was told that those will be share-the-road lanes and the state will be repaving Enfield Street. Eventually Post Office Road would have a separate bike path. There may be intersections where the share-the-road lane will be steered to a separate path for safety reasons.

Steve Cogtella, 2 S River Street – Mr. Cogtella asked if the Main Street bike path will be on the North or South side of the street before it crossed the tracks. He was told it will be share-the-road on both sides so as not to affect parking. The designated path will be on the South side where it comes over the stream. The Asnuntuck street underpass is proposed to be

bike/pedestrian traffic only, except when the Main Street bridge is being reconstructed. Potentially it will need to remain open to at least public safety/emergency vehicles. Mr. Cogtella asked about the widening of the bridge and whether it'll be moved East to better align with the road, and how that would be affected by the existing sewer and gas lines. He was told the Main Street bridge project is being handled by the Department of Public Works, who has hired a firm to look into that project. There is also an Amtrak right of way to consider. Some residents are concerned about the additional expense if the utility work is not coordinated properly with the bridge work. The public works projects would have public hearings along the way where concerns/questions can be raised and addressed. The bridge project would likely occur 2019/2020.

Mr. Cogtella asked for a status on the Strand Theater. Peter stated that it had been listed on the tax auction list but was removed. Red's understanding is that the former town manager removed it from the list. Mr. Cogtella asked about the \$200,000 Brownfield grant for that property and was told that the state rescinded the grant agreement.

**COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

- Earl asked members to identify focus points from the action plan to work on for the next meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion was made by Ken Edgar seconded by Jerry Fitzsimons to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

**Submitted by:**  
**Dawn Hunt, Community Development Secretary**

**Approved by:**  
**Earl Stallings, Chairman**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_