

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207 TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

James Sima, Chairman; Patti Flynn-Harris, David Schrumm
Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Gerald Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator
Guests: Scott Bushee, Dept. of Transportation representative.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

2. LINEAR TRAIL RESTROOMS, WATER FOUNTAIN AND CROSSING
SIGNAL.

DOT representative Scott Bushee distributed information (colored photos) of the
proposed rest rooms, water fountain and crossing signal for the Linear Trail in Cheshire.

Crossing Signal – the proposed signal on West Main Street is a HAWK signal, a
pedestrian hybrid beacon activated by pushing a button. Without action the signal is
dark; when activated there is flashing yellow to alert drivers to slow down; and the
pedestrian has the time to cross the road. The signal flashes red for a driver to know
someone is in the cross walk. Project 25135 is the one for installation of the light in
2015 with people having access to local businesses. The crossing will be accessible
for bike riders and pedestrians. DOT needs enough traffic generation to install the
signal. Mr. Bushee stated that the HAWK device seems to be the perfect one and the best
tool available. DOT will pay for, install, adjust timing, fix problems and monitor the
signal, which will be the first one in Connecticut. The Town is responsible for the long
term maintenance of the signal.

The committee was informed by Mr. Sitko that he has contacted other towns using the
HAWK signal, and Tuscon AZ has the signal since 2000, it works well, and driver
compliance is good. Champagne IL also has one HAWK signal, considers it a good
system, it works well, has handicapped access button, and electrical costs of \$450 a
year.

There was a discussion about finding a maintenance company for the light, and Mr.
Sitko mentioned the possibility of an agreement with DOT with Cheshire paying the
costs. Mr. Sima commented on the Town needing a special vehicle to work on this
light, and he has concerns about immediate response to maintenance issues.

Mr. Milone will discuss the maintenance issues and concerns raised by the committee
with PW Director Noewatne and CL&P, and check with the manufacturer as well.

Mr. Bushee recommended checking with electrical contractors who do traffic light maintenance, and he will send a list to Mr. Milone.

A question was raised about the push button on the light, it working on each side of the street, and Mr. Bushee noted there is a 2nd push button giving 60 to 120 seconds traffic time to cross again.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; Seconded by Mr. Sima

MOVED to approve the HAWK Signal light for West Main Street and forward the matter to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Water Fountain – a photo of the water fountain at Lock 12 was looked at and considered appropriate for the Linear Trail. DOT would pay for the construction of the fountain with the Town responsible for maintenance, and water fee from RWA of about \$200 annually.

Mr. Sima stated this fountain would be okay as long as it is winterized the same as the Lock 12 fountain.

According to Mr. Bushee there are no water fountains on the Trail, Southington to New Haven. He believes that with amenities the Trail will become a tourist attraction, get more use, and bring people to Cheshire. The fountain, restrooms and traffic signal are amenities the DOT is offering to the Town.

Restrooms – There were two types of facilities discussed – a single unit with water and sewer hookup and sink, and a Clivus compost toilet, either on West Main Street or Jarvis Street. Mr. Bushee explained that the toilet with water/sewer/sink could be put on West Main Street, but not on Jarvis as there is no sewer line available. Jarvis Street would require the Clivus toilet. He cannot guarantee that DOT would include a double toilet in its project due to costs. He reported that there was a presentation on the Clivus toilet about 2 months ago and PW Director Noewatne attended.

When the Ball & Socket Arts Center is built, Ms. Flynn-Harris said it will benefit this area of town and its businesses, and it makes sense to have a restroom facility on West Main Street.

For people going the full length of the trail, Mr. Bushee said that the Clivus representative recommended only one restroom facility.

PW Director Noewatne stated that maintenance costs of the Clivus toiler have been discussed along with disposal of the materials. The recommendation is daily cleaning by a Town employee, about 20 minutes per structure, quarterly Clivus inspection of the units, dropping a carbon deposit, raking out solid waste and checking the fluid tank. He

noted that the unit has no running water or electricity. Maintenance costs would be about \$350 per quarter, \$1400 annually. From November to March/April the facility would be locked. The Town would pump the tanks twice a year.

Mr. Bushee discussed the Clivus toilet versus a port-o-let type facility, and said the port-o-let would have higher maintenance costs than a Clivus unit. The units withstand vandalism and can be locked at night.

In looking at the annual cleaning and maintenance costs for a Clivus unit which includes cleaning, Parks and Rec crew member overtime, products, etc. it would be about \$7,000 annually.

The State is offering these options to the Town and Mr. Bushee informed the committee that the cost of one Clivus unit is about \$50,000 to \$70,000. The cost of a single unit on West Main Street would be \$60,000 and a double unit is about \$100,000 and would be installed in 2017. When the Town builds the parking lot for Jarvis Street it should incorporate the restroom facility into its project. Mr. Bushee commented on the Jarvis Street trail area and amenities being used by people from Southington.

Ms. Flynn-Harris recommended a Clivus facility on West Main Street, which would lower the risk of vandalism, eliminate water usage and electricity.

The recommendation from Mr. Bushee is a Clivus unit at Jarvis Street, and for West Main Street near the parking lot.

With West Main Street, Mr. Sima said we are talking about sidewalks, more traffic on the street, and the need for bathroom facilities. He requested Mr. Milone and Mr. Noewatne and Mr. Ceccolini provide the Council with costs for services to maintain the Clivus unit and a standard bathroom facility.

Regarding the construction and installation of these units, Mr. Bushee recommended the Town send a letter to the DOT requesting the State pay for the restroom project. There will be a kiosk built for the project with information from local businesses, organizations, and trail highlights/maps etc.

Mr. Milone will make it clear to DOT that Cheshire has an interest in the Clivus unit, but no money to pay for it. With a commitment from the State to pay for the unit, the Town would have to provide answers/information on assuming maintenance and costs.

According to Mr. Noewatne the Milone and MacBroom design can include the restroom facility, and with the area flat on Jarvis the Clivus unit could be incorporated into the design.

The Town has a limitation of \$350,000 for the Linear Trail project and Mr. Milone will present this to the DOT, i.e. the Town paying for 5% rather than 10% of the project to stay under the \$350,000 limitation.

A option was presented by Mr. Bushee with the State paying the Town's share or \$5,000. If the State says "no" the Town writes a letter to the DOT (Mr. Bushee's superior) and requests inclusion of the Clivus unit in the State's project. In a meeting with Milone and MacBroom, the State took on part of Cheshire's costs such as landscaping, fencing, and part of the trail next to Jarvis Street.

The numbers for the project will have to be reviewed with Milone and MacBroom, and Mr. Milone said this will be done before making any decisions.

3. INFORMATION RE: REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Sitko explained that the General Assembly passed legislation for COG's to consolidate from 14 down to 8, and Cheshire started looking at merging. The Central Naugatuck COG had 13 towns which worked well together for the benefit if all the towns. There was discussion merging with 4 Naugatuck Valley Towns and Bridgeport.

Mr. Sitko explained the logistics of a merger, staffing needs, budgetary needs, new by-laws, the listing of the 19 towns with 60% signing on for a new COG, and ordinance adopted by January 1, 2015. He said the plan is for adoption by November 1, 2014 for the new COG. Mr. Milone and Mr. Sitko met with the South Central COG but found no compelling reason to join as it was too big and Cheshire had nothing in common with Bridgeport area towns.

The new COG will be Naugatuck Valley COG; 13 Central Naugatuck Valley COG members plus 4 VALLEY COG towns would comprise the COG. The towns are: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Bristol, Cheshire, Derby, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Plymouth, Prospect, Seymour, Shelton, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Woodbury. OPM is okay with Cheshire joining the Naugatuck Valley COG.

Mr. Milone noted that Cheshire will have a significant presence in the Naugatuck Valley COG, which it would not have in the South Central COG. An ordinance approval is required for membership in the new COG.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Town of Cheshire participate in the Naugatuck Valley COG, and moves this recommendation to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. STATUS OF FY 13-14 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Milone will have information on the status of capital projects for the capital budget. Every project will be listed, and whether it has been reduced, deleted, with explanation on what must be pursued. He told the committee that no project has been delayed for any reason. There is \$50,000 outstanding in the open space account and \$100,000 outstanding in the revaluation account, and this money has been put aside.

Mr. Sima discussed the fact that the Dept.of Corrections has not yet moved forward and transferred land for the Jarvis Street parking lot.

The committee was informed by Mr. Milone that PW Director Noewatne is in touch with the DOC facilities manager, will be talking with them about this issue, and report back to the Council.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk