

RTM Public Works Committee Meeting - January 25, 2016

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order by Acting Chair James Cameron at 7:10 pm.

Members Present:, Frank Adelman, Patti Bumgardner, Tom Moore, James Cameron, Jenn Hite, Richard Poli, Brad Patelli, David Bayne and Cheryl Russel

Absent: Mark Adiletta

The Special Session of the Public Works Committee was called to discuss The Resolution Authorizing acceptance of a gift to the Town of Darien for \$25,000 from the Friends of Gorham's Pond and the Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Property at 35 Leroy Avenue to the care, custody and control of the Darien Board of Education.

The Resolution Authorizing acceptance of a gift to the Town of Darien for \$25,000 from the Friends of Gorham's Pond

David Bayne asked if the acceptance of the gift would require the Town to spend any additional funds not already budgeted. Jim said he would ask.

Cheryl said she had read the State Grant to see if there were stipulation and the only one was a fish ladder. She said that some of this project was on private property, the town has said it would not go on private property. She is concerned that this will lead to other private project.

Tom asked if there was a public benefit to dredging the pond - there is, but PW members were worried about whether there was access in a public way or if the Town would have to get easements from property owners.

James Cameron made a motion to Recommend Acceptance of Resolution 16-2 **Authorizing acceptance of a gift to the Town of Darien for \$25,000 from the Friends of Gorham's Pond** to the full RTM with 6 in favor (Moore, Cameron, Hite, Bayne, Bumgarden and Russel) and 1 abstaining (Patelli).

Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Property at 35 Leroy Avenue to the care, custody and control of the Darien Board of Education

Patti noted that the Education Committee of the RTM would recommend an amendment to change the words "care, custody and control" to "care, maintenance and operations." She also noted that the PZ & H Committee of the RTM was planning to recommend an amendment to add the wording "with the understanding that in sometime in the future the Town may reclaim the space for an alternate use" at the end of the Resolution.

Tom is not in favor of the Resolution. David suggested that they should offer the Board of Education a lease, but felt the at least the PZ & H amendment offered a "check." Brad asked if the Resolution was even necessary. We reviewed Town Attorney's materials and would like to see this clarified during our full RTM Meeting. Brad asked the group - why should we be

against this? David is worried there would be less transparency with the budget. And wants to make sure the Town could take the space back if necessary. David brought up parking - are all spaces for Board of Education? Cheryl suggests we postpone until ALL questions are answered.

Frank made a motion to echo Cheryl's thoughts and vote undecided on Resolution 15-22 **Authorizing the Transfer of Property at 35 Leroy Avenue to the care, custody and control of the Darien Board of Education** until all questions were answered. The Committee voted 8 in favor (Adelman, Moore, Cameron, Hite, Poli, Patelli, Bayne and Russel) and 1 abstaining (Bumgarden).

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Hite and Patti Bumgardner