

MINUTES  
OPERATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 21, 2013

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. in Room 206 of Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairperson, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; RTM Moderator, Sarah Seelye; Planning & Zoning Director, Jeremy Ginsberg and State Representative, Terrie Wood.

**Planning and Zoning**

Mr. Ginsberg announced that the Planning & Zoning Commission has elected Susan Cameron as Chairman and Steven Olvany as Vice-Chairman.

The Commission voted on November 19<sup>th</sup> to allow the Darien Housing Authority to relocate to Allen O'Neil Drive. A report from Planning & Zoning will likely be issued on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> recommending the acquisition of a parcel of land off Andrews Drive as part of a proposed litigation settlement. This would allow the Town control of a sewer pump station.

Mr. Ginsberg will forward a transfer request to the Board of Selectmen requesting funds to complete studies on the Goodwives River Watershed and Stony Brook. In early 2014 the commission will begin the process of hiring a consultant to work on Darien's Town Plan of Conservation & Development. The consultant will reach out to schools, the library, Town officials, the Darien Land Trust and other groups that would be a resource for information to assist in projecting the future growth and needs of the town.

Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Stevenson requested to be informed of any activity the Planning & Zoning Commission considers under Incentive Housing.

**Board of Finance**

Mrs. Mao noted that the Board of Finance approved the Noroton Heights Fire Truck request, but tabled the IT request for Redundancy equipment until additional information was reviewed.

The Board of Finance has hired the auditors Cohen and Resnick to review the Board of Education's Special Education reimbursement submissions to the State. Additionally, it was noted that the BOE costs remain the biggest driver of the Town's budget. Besides special education costs, there was a discussion of enrollment and facilities. The proposed renovation costs for Tokeneke and Royle are coming in much higher than expected. Mrs. Stevenson asked if the BOE is considering trying to acquire the Edgerton property for a stand-alone ELP facility.

**State Representative**

Mrs. Terrie Wood is preparing for the new legislative session which begins February 3, 2014. Amendments to 8-30g legislation continue to be a priority for Mrs. Wood and many of her colleagues throughout the State.

**Board of Education**

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross was pleased to announce that Dr. Lynne Pierson has been hired as Interim Superintendent through June of 2014. Dr. Pierson has a wealth of special education knowledge and experience which will help review, interpret and implement changes recommended in Sue Gamm's Executive Summary Report and the upcoming full report.

The Board has been named as the search committee for a new superintendent. Its members will hire a search committee to conduct a nationwide search for candidates. Input from focus groups and questionnaires will help guide the process.

**RTM Moderator**

Mrs. Seelye commented that the RTM has assigned its committees and meeting schedule for 2014. The State of the Town has been scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> this year but the Rules Committee plans to change the charter to allow the State of the Town to be moved to January or February. Mrs. Seelye said the speeches should focus on items that the RTM will be considering in the future, rather than a retrospective of the past.

Mrs. Seelye noted that the RTM will address attendance issues.

**First Selectman**

Mrs. Stevenson will meet tomorrow, November 22, 2013 with members of a SWRPA sub-committee to discuss 8-30g.

Parking is a priority for Mrs. Stevenson's second term in office. Among the items of focus are: the creation of additional parking, implementation of parking management systems, and review of rail stations maintenance including the potential redevelopment of the Noroton Heights Rail Station. She would like the Town to get in the que for any potential redevelopment grants from the State and/or Federal government.

Finally, Mrs. Stevenson was honored to attend a Veterans' Day ceremony at Hindley School. It was an outstanding event and she complimented the BOE for its decision to keep schools open on Veterans' Day and to use the day to promote activities honoring veterans for their service to the country.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary