

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
July 15, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David M. Campbell; Selectman, Gerald Nielsen, Jr.; Board of Finance Chairman, Murry Stegelmann; Board of Finance member, Martha Banks; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; P & Z Chairman, Fred Conze; State Representative, Terrie Wood; and Administrative Officer, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Ms. Westcott stated that Dr. Stephen Falcone began his tenure as the new Superintendent of Darien Schools on July 1, 2010. It was suggested that he be invited to attend the next OPC meeting to get acquainted with the OPC members. Ms. Westcott offered to extend the invitation.

Ms. Westcott conveyed that the Board of Education will be negotiating administrators' contracts in late July/early August. This involves approximately 25-30 administrators. Comparable salary and benefit data is being compiled and an independent negotiating group will facilitate the negotiation process. It is expected that there will be an agreement in about four weeks. Ms. Westcott noted that unaffiliated administrators' salaries have been frozen.

With regards to the proposal to move the Board of Education to 35 Leroy Ave., Ms. Westcott mentioned that the IT department has been asked to look at the site and give its comments to the Board of Education. The issue of office space for the Board of Education will be addressed at their July 27, 2010 meeting.

Additionally, she noted that the Board of Education will be looking into solar projects at Ox Ridge and the Darien High School.

Planning & Zoning

Mr. Fred Conze commented that the Planning and Zoning Commission held its second public hearing on the rezoning of Noroton Heights shopping area. The hearing was continued for 30 days in order to allow time to draw input from the Architectural Review Board. Additionally, Mr. Conze acknowledged the need for the Town to have a drainage design for Noroton Heights developed so the building plans can be designed around the drainage solutions. He also expressed a need to have the Town do a complete town-wide infrastructure study which would include pertinent information with regards to issues such as: sewers, traffic, parking and drainage.

When the P&Z Board meets next Tuesday they will be discussing the YMCA's application. Finally, it was noted by Mr. Conze that the P & Z Board would be looking at a request to have lights at Holahan Field again and he expects the board will be consistent with its previous recommendation.

State Representative

Terrie Wood, State Representative, informed the OPC members that the YMCA would now be known only as the Y. It's working nationally to encourage communities to build sidewalks to promote health and safety. In the discussion of sidewalks, Ms. Wood said she'd like to see some steps, not necessarily sidewalks, taken to improve safety for walkers along Hoyt Street. Lighting was mentioned as a possible solution, along with the possibility of installing lighted strips or blinking lights alongside the roadway.

Ms. Wood confirmed the meeting with the DOT scheduled for July 22, 2010. The meeting is to advance the Town's proposal that overhead signage is not needed at Exit 11 and would detract from the character of the town. Mr. Conze suggested we ask for a year to study whether or not the large sign is needed. Presently, all indications are that the traffic flow is greatly improved at Exit 11. Conversely, the Exit 13 interchange needs to be evaluated and Ms. Wood said she would inquire as to whether or not the DOT would also be able to visit that exit on July 22nd.

Board of Finance

Ms. Banks commented to Mr. Campbell that the Board of Finance was considering allowing for the Board of Selectman to transfer funds over \$3,000.

Mr. Stegelmann began a discussion on capital projects including the Senior/Community Center, Police Department and Weed Beach. Both Board of Finance members expressed a desire to see the future plans for the Community Center at Town Hall have multiple uses including rooms that are available to different organizations after Senior Center hours.

Ms. Westcott noted that if the Town were to build a pool it would help the school district by providing a place for the swim team to practice and hold meets. Also, it would help with Title 9 issues the district is facing. Mr. Campbell commented that capital projects are on the agenda for this coming Monday night's Board of Selectmen's meeting. The goal is to propose start dates for these projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary