

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2016

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:38 a.m.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman Michael Harman; Board of Finance Vice-Chairman Frank Huck, State Representative Terri Wood, RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye and Planning & Zoning Chairman Susan Cameron. Town Administrator Kate Buch and RTM Rules Committee Chairman Lois Schneider were also in attendance.

Board of Education

The Board of Education is pleased that the RTM voted on January 25, 2016 to pass the resolution transferring care, maintenance and operation of the property at 35 Leroy Ave. to the BOE. A special permit for the property is being reviewed. The BOE is working with Planning & Zoning to make minor modifications to the DHS fields to improve safety and traffic flow.

All DHS eleventh graders are scheduled to take the SAT exam on March 2, 2016. The district will receive a compilation of students' scores, but students have the right to opt out of receiving their individual scores and having those scores sent to colleges.

The budget process is underway. A proposed budget for FY2016-17 is on the BOE website for review before the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at Town Hall. Darien Public Schools Capital Projects 2016-17, Priority 1 is also listed on the website.

Planning & Zoning

Ms. Cameron noted that the second draft of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development was presented to the BOS on January 25, 2016. Planimetrics is doing a very good job and Mrs. Cameron continues to encourage people to offer their input. After the final draft Glen Chadler of Planimetrics will be organizing an implementation phase. Ms. Cameron and Mrs. Stevenson support the idea of an implementation phase.

The application for Shake Shack will be before the P&Z Commission next week. A self-storage development is proposed for the Duhaime property (between Avalon and I-95). Affordable Housing was considered for this property but access to sewer tie-ins made a housing development unfeasible. The storage project would incorporate two workforce housing units for property managers.

Board of Finance

Mr. Huck noted that the Board of Finance is beginning budget reviews related to the FY2016-17 budget. Members of the BOF are attending BOE and BOS meetings. It's an asset to be able to watch TV79 when finance members are unable to attend a meeting of interest.

RTM Moderator

The vote to transfer care, maintenance and operation of the property at 35 Leroy Ave. to the BOE was 36-30 in favor. Some RTM members stated to Mrs. Seelye that they voted against the resolution simply because they felt it was completely unnecessary and not because they were against the transfer.

The Rules Committee will consider the purchase of the 41 Hecker Ave. property on Feb. 8, 2016. The Town Plan of Conservation & Development will be presented to the RTM on the February 22, 2016.

State Representative

The state legislative session begins on February 3, 2016 and ends May 4, 2016. Mrs. Wood discussed Bills under consideration during the upcoming session. She also mentioned that GE is leaving CT and the impact that will have on tax revenue, jobs and families. Some discussion of taxes ensued.

First Selectman

Mrs. Stevenson and her Board have begun work on the budget which has been presented by Town Administrator Kate Buch with a less than 1% increase. Mrs. Stevenson also discussed gas expansion, tracking the Zika virus, the acquisition of the property at 41 Hecker Ave. and the Weed Beach expansion project. Finally, she commented that the COG is establishing a task force to address the heroin and opiate addictions increasing throughout the state.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the 2016 OPC meeting schedule. Mrs. Wood motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Harman and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting. Terrie Wood moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Cameron. The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0. Sarah Seelye abstained. Mrs. Wood moved to adjourn, seconded by Sarah Seelye and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary