

**Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee (PZ&H) of the
Darien Representative Town Meeting (RTM)**

Draft Minutes

Date: April 27, 2015

Place: Darien Town Hall, Room 119

Present: Liz Bacon, Carolyn Bayne, Fred Conze, Joe Cherico, Joan Davis, Courtney Haidinger, Ted Hawkins, Joanne Hennessy, James Howe, Spencer McIlmurray, John van der Kieft,

Absent: Matt Jordan, Nancy Coyle Downs, Rob Young

This was a regular meeting of the Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm. Joanne Hennessy, PZ&H Chair, reviewed the agenda.

The first agenda topic covered was the **Town Plan of Conservation and Development**. Members of the Committee were encouraged by the Chair to attend the public meeting tomorrow of the Planning and Zoning Commission which will be taking comments on “development-related issues” for the new Plan. A number of Committee members mentioned their concerns on future town development especially downtown Darien parking and traffic and the redevelopment of Noroton Heights. Fred Conze raised the issue, which is currently before the State Legislature, for the creation of a Transportation Corridor Commission. This is something that we should keep an eye on as it could substantially impact future development in town. State Rep Terrie Wood will be hosting a meeting at the library next week to cover this topic plus that of the new Council of Governments (COGs) having taxing authority. Several members mentioned that reps from Hartford, when COGs were under development, had assured everyone that COGs would not have taxing authority.

Chair Hennessy reviewed the agenda topics for the **next RTM meeting** which will be May 11th. In addition to the budget vote there will be votes on selected spending projects including the demolition of 32 Hoyt Street (Holmes School) and the old Senior Center on Edgerton Street. Fred Conze proposed a motion to support the 32 Hoyt Street demolition which was seconded by Spencer McIlmurray and passed by a unanimous vote. After discussion Fred Conze proposed and Spencer McIlmurray seconded a motion to support the demolition of the old Senior Center. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote with the caveat that the RTM be reminded that when the Shuffle was approved by the RTM the Edgerton property was proposed to be the site of a new senior affordable housing project whose developer would pay for the demolition of the old center. This suggested bargain was part of the approval process and the Committee felt strongly that building senior affordable housing at Edgerton should remain a priority for future use of the site.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ted Hawkins, acting PZ&H Clerk