

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

Draft Minutes

Date: January 14, 2014

Place: Darien Town Hall, Room 213

Present: Liz Bacon, Carolyn Bayne, Jose Cepeda, Shedd Glassmeyer, Courtney Haidinger, Ted Hawkins, Joanne Hennessy, James Howe, Spencer McIlmurray, John van der Kieft

Absent: Lucy Fiore, John McLean, Seth Morton, Rob Young

Guests: Jane Branigan, Susan Marks, Cheryl Russell, Sarah Seelye, Jayme Stevenson

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. The meeting agenda was reviewed by Joanne Hennessy, PZ&H Chairman.

Chairman Hennessy gave an update on the Mather Community Center, noting that an early March opening is expected.

The Chairman also gave an update on the project known as "The Heights" based on a report from Ms. Fiore, PZ&H liaison, who was not present. It was noted that the first two phases of construction are complete. Phase III is underway and completion is expected by the end of September.

A lengthy discussion ensued with guests regarding two upcoming resolutions relating to the purchase of 4 Short Lane. The first resolution authorizes the purchase of the property; the second, the issuance of bonding relating to the purchase. Various questions were raised regarding boundaries, purchase price & negotiations, reason for two separate resolutions, and possible future uses for the property. It was noted that for many years both the Town Plan and the Weed Beach Master Plan have identified this parcel as desirable. A motion was made for the Committee to approve the acquisition of the property known as 4 Short Lane. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. A motion was then made to authorize bonding in the amount of \$1.925m for the purchase of, and improvements made to, 4 Short Lane. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Under "Other Business," the Chair briefly discussed an item that the RTM may be asked to vote on in the future. "C-PACE" is a state-sponsored incentive program to encourage the owners of commercial, industrial, and multi-family properties to install environmentally-beneficial improvements. Owners are granted the ability to pay for such major improvements over time in exchange for voluntarily accepting an

extra assessment on their property tax bills. A contract between the legislative body in the owner's town and the Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority (CEFIA), which manages the program, must be in effect in order for owners to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Bayne, PZ&H Clerk