

Meeting of: Public Works Pedestrian Infrastructure Sub-Committee (PISC)
Meeting type: Special Meeting
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015
Location: Darien Town Hall, Room 206
Members attending: Frank Adelman (Chair), David Young, Brad Pattelli, Jennifer Hite
Members absent: Katie Keith
Others attending: None

Published Agenda:

- Call to order
- Review recent developments relating to the formation of a Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) by the Board of Selectmen
- Discuss and agree a workplan for this Sub-Committee to support the formation of the PIAC
- Discuss potential qualifications to be sought among members of the PIAC
- Discuss potential working relationship between this Sub-Committee and the PIAC
- Adjournment

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm.

The following previously published documents were distributed for reference:

- Agenda for this Special Meeting
- Draft of May 4, 2015 resolution by Board of Selectmen to create PIAC
- Final version of Dec. 15, 2014 resolution passed by Public Works Committee

The Sub-Committee briefly reviewed the history of events leading up to the formation of the PIAC.

The Sub-Committee discussed the resolution creating the PIAC and the various distributional requirements relating to 1) Darien voting districts and 2) participation by designated RTM committee members.

In light of the heavy RTM representation that the BoS has specified for the PIAC, Frank suggested that the PIAC should work towards a final deadline and presentation to the BoS prior to Election Day (Nov. 3, 2015) rather than the deadline of Dec. 1, 2015 specified by the BoS. However, it was agreed that this is a decision to be made by the PIAC members when established, and not by this Sub-Committee.

Frank reported that on May 11 he reached out to the Chairs of the 5 RTM committees that are specifically named in the BoS resolution, requesting their assistance in identifying members of their respective Committees that would be able and willing to serve.

The Sub-Committee discussed the qualifications that would be desirable among potential members of the PIAC. The Sub-Committee agreed to the list of qualifications noted below. It was agreed that the PIAC would benefit from contributions by members from a range of backgrounds; the qualifications are not intended to exclude participants but to highlight the resources and perspectives that will be most helpful. The Sub-Committee also noted that the PIAC should find ways to recognize and benefit from contributions by non-members – e.g., volunteers with interest who may not be selected for the PIAC.

Qualifications identified for evaluation of individual members of the PIAC and for the group as a whole:

Essential qualifications:

1. RTM Committee balance: in accordance with resolution passed by BoS.
2. Geographical balance: per the resolution, no more than 2 PIAC members may come from any single Darien voting district. It is desirable but not required for all 6 districts to be represented.
3. Availability: The PIAC will conduct significant work over the summer. Members must be available during the summer months for PIAC meetings and to contribute individually.
4. Darien resident

Desirable qualifications:

5. Demonstrated interest in pedestrian & biking issues: e.g., specific experience as a pedestrian, jogger, runner or biker on Darien streets. Diverse perspectives encouraged among the PIAC.
6. Relevant experience: professional credentials, experience and/or training in fields relevant to pedestrian/ biking issues and governmental processes. Examples: civil / traffic engineering, human factors engineering, local governmental experience, etc. Familiarity with prior work done in town on this topic also beneficial.

The Sub-Committee discussed how to reach out and solicit potential volunteers for consideration to be named to the PIAC. In addition to the outreach to RTM Committee chairs, the committee agreed on the following outreach steps:

1. Presentation by Frank to the RTM Rules Committee on Mon., May 18
2. Publication in the Darien Times of May 21 and other local media
3. Outreach to "Community News" section of all 7 weekly school e-mail newsletters
4. Outreach through Darien YMCA channels
5. Open Town meeting on Tues., May 26

The Sub-Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on Tues., May 26, 2015 at 7:30pm in Town Hall. (Note: the Auditorium has been reserved.) The purpose of the meeting will be to:

1. Communicate to the community about the establishment of the PIAC
2. Solicit potential volunteers from both RTM and non-RTM participants
3. Solicit feedback and input regarding potential infrastructure projects and needs

The Sub-Committee specifically expressed a desire to invite key partners to the May 26 meeting, including Ed Gentile (Dep't of Public Works), Captain Donald Anderson (Darien PD), Jeremy Ginsberg (P&Z Dep't), and the Chairs of the five RTM Committees noted in the resolution, or their respective delegates / designees.

The Sub-Committee also asked after the status of the inquiry with Town Counsel regarding proportionate representation on the PIAC.

No other business was discussed and the PISC meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Adelman

May 19, 2015