

Town Center Committee
May 20, 2014 Minutes

The meeting came to order at 7:03pm. Committee members present were Victor Artioli, Judy Artioli, Mitch Feldmesser, Dale Hoag, Judy Hoag, Howard Knickerbocker, Jay Swift, Maureen Sullivan and Alan Vint.

Mr. Swift reported that he had not yet heard back from Andrew Loew as to whether or not the PVPC had its brownfield funding renewed for the coming fiscal year or if the PVPC had funds remaining in the current year's budget that might be made available to the town.

Ms. Hoag reported on her efforts of keeping Elizabeth Rairigh apprised of the TCC discussions regarding the opinions of Hill Engineering as well as the committee's research findings on building demolition requirements. It is expected that Ms. Rairigh will report back, from a preservation perspective, to the committee.

Mr. Vint reported on his conversation with tax title attorney Ron Berenson re Mr. Berenson's conversation with Luke Rogers of the DEP. Mr. Berenson said that if the building were to be deemed condemnable the Town may take down the building and that the Town Highway Department could do the demolition work. Mr. Berenson also reported that Mr. Rogers indicated that the DEP would not be aggressive in moving to collect on the lien, depending on circumstances. Also, the DEP could be called upon to provide technical assistance in the demolition of the commercial structure if the town were to choose that option.

Mr. Swift read an email sent from Cathy Roth to the members of the Heritage Society, some of who sit on the Town Center Committee, in support of preservation of the commercial building. This jumpstarted a conversation on the need for the committee to engage those interested in the preservation of the structure by inviting them to come to a meeting to talk about possible preservation strategies. Committee members concurred that it wishes to preserve the historical significance of the structure for the community. Suggestions for reuse of the building were made.

Mr. Vint reported on his conversation with Caprice Shaw of the DEP regarding a concern voiced by David Dinicola at a previous meeting. Ms. Shaw will send DEP documents on the matter to the committee.

A motion was made to contact the Middlefield Heritage Society to invite its members to the next Town Center Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

Mr. Feldmesser reiterated how important it is to move forward, in a step-by-step approach, on the scope of work listed by the LSP. Mr. Swift concurred that the committee's mission is to clean up the brownfield.

Ms. Sullivan thought it appropriate that the committee send out acknowledgements to the people that have made monetary contributions for the town to work with on the clean up and any resulting reuse efforts.

The next meeting was set for Thursday June 5, 2014.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Sullivan, Secretary
Attachment: Email from Judy Hoag to Elizabeth Rairigh