

TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 28, 2015
6:00 PM

Monroe Police Department – Lobby Conference Room

Attendance: Councilman Kenneth Kellogg, Chairman (“KK”)
Councilman Dee Dee Martin (“DM”)
Councilman Kevin Reid, Secretary (“KR”)

Also Present: Nick Kapoor, Town Council Member, (“NK”)
Marvin Moss, Conservation Committee Member, (“MM”)
Rob Bunovsky, Town of Monroe Finance Director, (“RB”)
Mike Manjos, Board of Finance Chair, (“MMa”)
Cathy Lombardi, HR Director, (“CL”)
Frank Lieto, Town Council Chair, (“FL”)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by KK at 6:04 PM

2. Public Participation

- None

3. Minutes of 12/22/2015 Meeting

- Minutes of the previous meeting, submitted by KK, Chairman of SPC were reviewed.
- Motion by DM, seconded by KK, approve the minutes. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Chalk Hill Building

- a. Committee debrief from previous walk-through of facility
 - i. KK led discussion of walk through that occurred at the previous meeting
- b. Input from Conservation and Water Resources Commission
 - i. Thoughts from the MM requesting the consideration of a nature trail and center

- ii. Walkthroughs of the trail recently have been done to reinforce this idea
- iii. Chalk Hill would be a place for an education center associated with the trail/nature center
- c. General discussion and next steps:
 - i. KK mentioned that it was enlightening on how the facility appears relative to what was expected.
 - ii. KK distributed a draft report for discussion purposes to engage feedback and discussion
 - iii. There is an initial thought that the building has not been modernized or updated since turn over to Newtown.
 - iv. FL sited a need for conversation on “appropriate uses”
 - v. FL sited that the BoE has no future use for the building, but use the building’s parking lot as overflow for Jockey Hollow and fields for recreational uses
 - vi. KK discussed the need for the committee to share findings to Council at a public session. Timing to be determined.

5. Status of Input - Significant Projects

- a. Input from Conservation and Water Resources Commission:
 - a. MM discussed the need for increasing importance: the commission has an initiative to support and endorse “open space” in town
 - b. MM stated Wolf Park is an example of “open space” – national stats reflect that preserving open space is economically valuable to the town, not just those properties adjacent.
 - c. MM gave examples of Property of interest – Webb Circle, 10 acres. Person that lives there is offering to the town.
 - d. Property of interest – 9 acres near Stevenson damn, right on Housatonic River. Example of future nature center.
- b. Overall status on input received
- c. General discussion and next steps
 - a. Next steps according to Conservation Commission and MM: Current land is 20 acres and recommendation is that we consider looking at funds instead of going to General Fund, go to an “open space” fund to purchase “open space” properties.
 - b. MM also shared a s a last point, Conservation Commission would like to address in minds of the committee members: there is a depository of actual lumber (possibly 60%) of the original Monroe Town Hall interior (some structure, some trim) exists in the Historic Society’s garage on Great Ring. KR has volunteered to deliver a manifest of the lumber to Historic Society as part of the Strategic Committee’s remit within the new year. Time to be determined upon initial analysis of lumber.

6. Salary Analysis Presentation from Councilman Kapoor et al & Discussion

- a. NK and CL presented their analysis for the pay schedule so that it can one day be presented to council for future strategy
- b. NK presented a block diagram outlining salary structure

- c. Much discussion on what makes up the pay for a position. Conditions are longevity, need for the work, skill and a clear succession line to offer advancement.
 - d. Many examples used to demonstrate the different reasons pay should be low, in the middle, or high.
 - e. General consensus from those attending was an immediate need to address L10 positions
 - f. NK and CL considered input from the Committee and will further refine their analysis accordingly for next sub-committee meeting
7. Adjournment
- a. DM motioned to adjourn
 - b. KK adjourned meeting at 8:32