

LITCHFIELD MAIN STREET INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Town Office Building, 74 West Street

June 7, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chairman Jonathan Wilson called the special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Jonathan Tarrant, Diane Knox, Jonathan Wilson, Gerard Perusse, Kathryn Zullo, Dick Sheldon, Denise Raap, and Cleve Fuessenich. Also present were Raz Alexe and Eileen Schmidt.

Approval of Minutes: J. Tarrant moved to approve the minutes of the 5/8/17 meeting and Dick Sheldon seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Works Projects Presentation – Raz Alexe: Mr. Wilson said it would be helpful to hear different groups' initiatives, and he invited Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, to fill the group in on the town projects to come. He indicated two major projects to happen along Route 202. One is for drainage on Route 202 near the center of town and may involve sidewalks. They also discussed the possibility of one-way traffic in a fishbone pattern through the business district and related traffic problems. J. Wilson said it is important to direct visitors to all parking areas. Mr. Alexe then said they also need to pave West Street, but he would like to do the drainage first. Lee Losee would like to have electricity and whatever mechanicals are necessary for plans on the Green. The sidewalk project, now over \$100,000 and forcing prevailing wage, will be bid together with the Borough's project from Murphy's to Russell Street and will run from Murphy's Pharmacy to Constitution Way on the south side of Route 202, trying to do it in August but likely September. With the Borough piggy backing onto the Town's project by using the same engineer of record, continuity will prevail and money will be saved. They discussed the problems with the Meadow Street sidewalk project and how it could have been done differently choosing a company by RFQ based on an engineering firm's study.

R. Alexe also noted a special traffic signal with underground cables near Route 202/North Lake St. this summer. He then explained a Road Safety Audit grant that was awarded to us by the State, and said he would email the RSA report to the committee for comment. Now he can apply for connectivity grants from the DOT. D. Knox said there should be signs that are informative and welcoming.

Borough of Litchfield Sidewalk Plan – Gerry Perusse (included in above discussion)

Cleve Fuessenich, Economic Development Commission, noted that it might be a good idea to bury utility lines on the north side of the green at the same time Russ Barton is doing the same by the jail building. R. Alexe mentioned that the municipal parking lot restrooms should be redone. Also there is grant money available for an electric vehicle charging station that could be located in the area of the compactor in the municipal lot. J. Tarrant asked about the fire siren on the green and Cleve said it could be redone in conjunction with the information booth project.

Borough of Bantam Plans – Dick Sheldon: R. Alexe said there is an opportunity for a boulevard feel to the entrance to Doyle Road. Dick Sheldon said parking is becoming a large problem. Many Arethusa Dairy customers are unfortunately parking at the coffee shop and crossing back and forth on Route 202. J. Wilson mentioned the sidewalk connecting the old switch factory to the center of Bantam, going up Bantam hill. Mr. Sheldon said people can park at the Borough Hall and the Bantam River Park. He said the Borough would like to buy the Dream House building. R. Alexe said he would be happy to participate in any projects in Bantam.

Mr. Wilson summarized that Raz Alexe is willing to work with the Committee to coordinate planning for efficiency and timing of projects. He emphasized that this committee could be used as a conduit for discussion in order to include all the different pieces. Russell Barton will be approached to speak at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Motion: J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. and G. Perusse seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2017.

Jonathan Wilson
Chairman