

LITCHFIELD MAIN STREET INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Town Office Building, 74 West Street

November 1, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order: Jonathan Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with members Kate Zullo, Denise Raap, Jonathan Tarrant and Dick Sheldon also in attendance. Members absent were Cleve Fuessenich, Gerry Perusse, and Diane Knox.

II. Public Requests/Comments: None

III. Approval of Minutes: Special June 7, 2017: Motion: J. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2017 special meeting and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

It was noted that the minutes from the 9/6/17 meeting were not filed because the agenda was not filed, so technically there could be no meeting. The 10/6/17 minutes also were not filed as there was not a quorum present.

Motion: J. Wilson moved to add to the agenda as IIIa. "Adopt 2018 Meeting Schedule." J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

IIIa. Adopt 2018 Meeting Schedule: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to adopt the 2018 meeting schedule as submitted by J. Wilson. D. Sheldon seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

IV. Old Business

a. Jail Renovation Update: The group toured the facility at 6:00 p.m. on 9/6/17, and owners Russ Barton, Harriet Saltzman and Susie Stone predicted they would be open in late October or early November. They then met with the group to update the status of the jail. J. Wilson said he met with Russ Barton last week and they have received their certificate of occupancy for the back wing, and Luna boutique has moved in. There is an indication that a bakery is going in next door, Brooklyn Baker, who has applied to put in a sign. On the second floor, "Lulu" will be going in for cosmetics and skin care. There is still talk of a restaurant and coffee shop going in. The elevator is in and they have to finish the walkways for the third floor. He then expects the apartments will be ready to show for tenants. The garage out back will be private parking for the tenants.

b. Recap of West St. Improvement Discussion: J. Wilson said that Raz Alexe had presented projects including drainage and repaving, which brought up expanding the sidewalk, one-way traffic flow as well as cutting into the green, which was opposed by all. D. Raap said there is an old postcard that shows the sidewalk was double the size it is today. It also showed people walking and horses and posts on the green. It was agreed Raz would continue with the drainage project and would try to allow for sidewalk expansion in the future if needed. G. Perusse had stated that the Borough Board was not in favor of expanding the sidewalk. Raz will also repave West Street and redo the signage. They wanted to be sure that after discussion with Lee Losee, Borough Warden, any mechanicals needed on west-center-east green were accounted for in the project plan before paving over. They will tap into the water main to bring more water to the west green. They ran extra conduit to the jail in case fiber optics will be needed in the future. J. Wilson also said they had discussed future use of the municipal parking lot and having more green space

and restaurant seating behind the stores. J. Tarrant thought they should revisit the concept of a one-way street at some point and come to some agreement. J. Wilson agreed to bring this up at a future meeting.

c. Recap of Sidewalk Plan Discussion: The Borough and Town have worked together with the same contractor to redo the sidewalks. The Borough was responsible for the area from Russell Street to Murphy's Pharmacy with stamped asphalt to resemble bricks, and the Town from Constitution Way to Russell Street. The next sidewalk planned will be the crosswalk from the jail, past the information booth to the center, with the same stamped asphalt plan and increased lighting. J. Tarrant mentioned the outdated information booth and a plan for tourist information to be available on the town website. There could be a self-service booth with brochures near the municipal parking lot restrooms.

V. New Business

a. Borough of Bantam Main Street Revitalization Discussion: Dick Sheldon and J. Wilson met last week to discuss issues and ideas for Bantam. Dick said the former gas station owned by Patterson on Bantam Road has been a problem and vacant for some time. When they were unable to get approval from Bantam P&Z for a Patco, they have not been talking with the Borough. The Borough is interested in purchasing it for increased parking, and Arethusa is very interested in purchasing it as well. The old PTC Aerospace building is coming along, but improvements are being made slowly by owner Jack Nelson. There are environmental issues in the building that a third party, Tenneco, is responsible for. They hope to get moving soon. The Dream House is an ongoing issue, with the building in poor condition with no heat. J. Wilson asked how Bantam could be more walkable, and Dick Sheldon said people don't want to walk up and down the hill, although there is parking halfway at the Bantam River Park. Kate Zullo suggested more signage to direct visitors to parking areas, and Dick suggested all municipal parking areas in town using one common sign. For tourism, J. Wilson said there is an absence of its promotion on the website, and Kate Zullo said people go to social media and look at pictures to decide where to visit. For the 300th anniversary J. Wilson said it is a focus time for projects to be done and decorated. A good project from Bantam may be daffodils donated by the Ohms family of Van Engelen in Bantam to be planted in strategic locations along the way. Dick Sheldon said he would contact Dwight Keeney who may also be willing to help, as he has already donated bulbs for planting in the center. J. Wilson also suggested asking Diane Stoner of the Garden Club for help. The Greenway and Bantam River Park could also be key areas for plantings. K. Zullo asked if Cliff Cooper of the Greenway could come in at the next meeting to speak. J. Wilson said he would reach out to the Garden Club and the Greenway for the next meeting. Eileen Schmidt of ELVIS in East Litchfield would also be a good person to contact, as well as Peter Litwin from the Litchfield Land Trust.

VI. Adjournment: Motion: J. Tarrant moved and K. Zullo seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Jonathan Wilson, Chairman