

**Halls Road Improvements Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Old Lyme Town Hall
December 7, 2017**

Present: BJ Bernblum, Bud Canady, Lindsay Eisensmith, First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder

Absent: Ray Thompson, John Evans, Frank Morelli

Guests: Jon Curtis, RiverCOG, Mike Reiter, Heather Gagnon, Chair, Economic Development Commission, Michael Brown, Edie Twining

Call to Order: Chairman BJ Bernblum convened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

BJ introduced Michael Brown and Edie Twing as local residents who might have an interest in the Committee. He also suggested that it would be helpful to recruit a real estate developer to join the Committee.

There was discussion of the following matters:

1. Plans by the State of Connecticut DOT to widen I-95 east of the Connecticut River. Jon Curtis agreed to look into the current status of any such plans.
2. The desirability of conducting additional public interest focus groups. The consensus was that another such meeting should be held with members of Old Lyme's boards and commissions, perhaps on December 20. After that, the Committee may be ready to hold meetings with the general public, which would benefit from a hypothetical "master plan" to which attendees could react. It would also be useful to develop a proposed, general time-line for the project.
3. The advisability of the Committee retaining a consultant in the near future to assist it in the development of the hypothetical master plan and soliciting public input regarding such a plan. BJ and Bonnie reported on the positive meeting they had with the Yale Urban Design Institute and plans to pursue exploration of that group as a possible consultant. Concurrently, the Committee will develop a Request for Qualifications which can be used to identify other potential consultants. Bonnie and Jon Curtis will work on a first draft of this document.
4. The Town has created email addresses for its boards, commissions and committees. The address for this committee is hallsroadcommittee@oldlyme-ct.gov. The chairman of the Committee is requested to use this email address when communicating Committee business. Committee members may continue to use their personal email accounts.

Received 1/3/18
Vicki Womack

5. The creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district could be very useful for the Halls Road Improvements project, as it would include adoption of appropriate zoning regulations and could support the creation of a useful source of funding. BJ will follow up with Attorney Mike Andreana regarding a proposal to provide guidance in this area.

Upon motion duly made by Lindsay Eisensmith and seconded by Bud Canady, it was agreed to schedule regular meetings in 2018 to be held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Next Regular Meeting: January 4, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
BJ Bernblum