

ROUTE 6 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 am by Joyce Stille

PLACE: Columbia Town Hall Meeting Room

ROLL CALL: Eric M. Trott (Planner – Town of Coventry); Terri-Ann Hahn (LADA, Land Planners); Carol Polsky (EDC – Town of Coventry); Lia Huang (CRCOG); Chris Korbel (LADA, Land Planners; John Pagini (Planner – Town of Bolton); Joyce Stille (Town Administrator – Bolton); Elaine Buchardt (EDC – Town of Andover); Carmen Vance (Selectman – Town of Columbia); Vera Englert (EDC – Town of Columbia); Jana Butts (Planner - Town of Columbia)

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: No Comment.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Vance and seconded by Buchardt to adopt the minutes of the March 1, 2010 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The March 8, 2010 minutes were deferred.

CRCOG TRANSPORTATION STUDY:

Lia Huang from CRCOG reported the contract with the contractor should be executed today. Lia asked the members to forward the Town's traffic authority names to her. Staff from the consultant's office will be present on the corridor tour.

DISCUSSION ON STEAP GRANT WITH CONSULTANT:

The draft Economic Development Action Plan Agenda was reviewed by the Council. The Council asked if the questions from the local businesses were to be included in the report. They are expected to be included.

It was agreed to prioritize the tasks in the Plan's agenda. A question was raised regarding how agricultural related uses fit into the Agenda. It was agreed to prioritize the strategies after the public forums. The Council discussed the 9 strategies at length and how they related to one another.

A leakage study is viewed as critical to understand the business needs of the area. Also, small beautification success stories would be helpful as well.

The priority – key sites for visioning purposes were also discussed. The intersection of RTE 6/66 in Columbia was reviewed. The gateway location on the Windham Town line should also be included as

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well as the Leventi's area. The intersection redesign should be included in the transportation planning effort.

The Columbia west node – south side properties that are currently zoned commercial but are used residentially should be included for visioning.

The Town of Andover has not concluded exactly what their preference is, but it is expected that the visioning area will be the historic Town Center and the Post Farm.

It was agreed that residential uses are a key part of the development to create a captive audience in the corridor, such as workforce style housing and over 55 developments.

The Coventry site could be a site for a regional YMCA as well as the residential uses described above. The various forms of site access must be carefully evaluated with special attention to the Hop River crossing and accessing the developable area.

In Bolton, the RTE 44/6 node has great potential for connecting the two roads via Howard Drive and merits visioning. The south side has some topographical constraints that need to be considered, especially with the pedestrian connection to the Trail. A connection to Bolton Lake should be considered as well. This location is an important gateway with potential for streetscape improvements that should be further evaluated by the transportation consultant.

The public workshops were agreed to be tentatively scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>.

NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA: The next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2010 at 9:00am, which will be the corridor tour. The tour will start at 9:00am at the Bolton Ice Palace.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric M. Trott

Secretary