

ROUTE 6 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 am by Carmen Vance

PLACE: Columbia Town Hall Meeting Room

ROLL CALL: Eric M. Trott (Planner – Town of Coventry); Terri-Ann Hahn (LADA, Land Planners); Jennifer Carrier (CRCOG); Vera Englert (EDC – Town of Columbia); Jana Butts (Planner – Town of Columbia); Leigh Ann Hutchinson (Andover – PZC); John Pagini (Planner – Town of Bolton); Elaine Buchardt (EDC – Town of Andover); Jeff Parker (CHA); Dave Sousa(CHA); Carmen Vance (Selectman – Town of Columbia)

It was agreed by those in attendance to move agenda item 5a to the top of the agenda.

DISCUSSION ON STEAP GRANT WITH CONSULTANT:

Terri-Ann Hahn reported that the Master Plan is ready for adoption and the suggestions that were made prior have been incorporated into it.

A motion was made by Vance and seconded by Butts to accept the Master Plan Map dated July 30, 2010.

The following discussion ensued:

The comment regarding the residential zone curb cut reduction on sheet is to be removed.

Jana indicated that there are aspects of the Master Plan that differs from the recommendations incorporated into the Regional Plan. The Coventry and Columbia Meadows nodes are not suggested s development areas in the Regional Plan. Jana offers her support of the Master Plan due to the scope of the project and the focus of the Council and that the scales differ between the local and regional plans.

Vera inquired about the issue of timing of development as it relates to the north and south sides and the avoidance of small lots and new individual curb cuts on sheet 7. Concerns were discussed relative to adaptive and new uses.

Leigh Ann inquired about how the Plan and the ultimate zoning regulations differ and the adoption of a vision for the corridor. She expressed her concern with future credibility of adoptive the Master Plan without the support of the individual Town PZC's and property owners.

A question was raised about the Lake Road node on sheet 5 and the use of the intersection and light for new development.

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The following friendly amendment was agreed to by Vance and Butts for the adoption of the Master Plan:

In adopting this Plan, the RTE 6 Regional Economic Development Council respects the individual goals and visions of the respective four Towns in the Corridor and acknowledges the need to ensure compatibility with those goals and visions. The Council is committed to working cooperatively with the individual Town Boards and Commissions to create regulations that balance these interests.

The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: No Comment.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Trott and seconded by Butts to adopt the minutes of August 9, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

CRCOG TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Jeff Parker and David Sousa from CHA were present to provide details on the progress of their study.

Speed data has been collected in the corridor. It is noted that the highest speeds exist at the offramp location from 384 to RTE 6. High speeds were also noted at the Shoddy Mill Road and Roses Bridge Road intersections.

The Context Sensitive Solutions and Complete Streets approaches are to be applied to the analysis and recommendations by the consultant. The goal is to change the character of RTE 6 in the development nodes to encourage safety and appropriate development.

The Corridor is identified as a 'single use – major corridor' that is an extension of the interstate system by default. The vision of speed reduction, accident reduction and the alteration of traffic movement will be applied. The intention is to create villages at the various nodes to accommodate traffic safety with a minimum impact to commuter travel time. The community needs must dictate the transportation solutions, not the other way around.

Traffic calming at the gateways by creating 'enclosure' in the periphery with encourage opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists and provide a cue of a village. Examples include, edge treatments at intersections and nodes.

Community place making is a major goal of the study and the Transportation Plan will support the Master Plan.

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CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON STEAP GRANT WITH CONSULTANT:

The zoning map was revised and reflects the recommendations that were provided at the previous meeting.

John prepared some comments on the regulations that were forwarded to Terri and reflect a Low Impact Design approach.

A question was raised in regard to 'permitted' vs. 'preferred' uses.

A discussion on 'fixed' vs. 'flexible' setbacks occurred. It was agreed that non-traditional concepts, such as maximum/minimum setbacks should be incorporated into the text. In addition, the guidelines should be emphasized and highlighted more in the text, as far as the construct of the text is concerned.

It was agreed that John, Jana and Eric would meet to provide additional comments on the zoning text.

The September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on adopting the final report.

NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA: The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2010 at 9:00am.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric M. Trott

Secretary