

SUMMARY OF ALLINGTOWN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Notre Dame High School
December 6, 2018

Members Present: Ron Quagliani, Chris Suggs, Robbin Watt Hamilton, Lou Annino, Kevin Vine, and Kathy Weilk. Members Absent: Gary LeTendre. Staff Present: Fred Messore, Dave Killeen

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

2. Self-Introductions

- a. Kathy Weilk, Human Resources, Notre Dame High School. She has been in West Haven for 25 years, living here on two occasions. She sees a lot of opportunity in Allingtown.
- b. Fred Messore – in addition to being the Commissioner of Planning and Development, he was a student at Notre Dame, Class of 1987. He also served previously as the Director of the West Haven Redevelopment Agency.
- c. Chris Suggs – Lives on Terrace Avenue in the neighborhood, is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and past member of City Council. He would like to see how to engage other businesses in revitalization (e.g. Front Avenue businesses) to hear their ideas on how to improve the area.
- d. Robbin Watt Hamilton – Is a lifelong resident of Allingtown. She feels that the 5th District is a neglected part of the community. She feels the neighborhood needs to be cleaner, needs increased public safety and more small businesses in the neighborhood.
- e. Lou Annino – Chief Facilities Officer for UNH and was with the Bayer campus for 19 years. He has 25 years of planning experience, including 21 years as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for Killingworth and, currently, as First Selectman. He worked on West Haven’s Steering Committee to develop an updated Plan of Conservation and Development. He wants to see a vision for more enabling zoning language. He feels it is important to keep a strategic approach, and he would like to see the City avoid granting variances if possible.
- f. Kevin Vine – Family has owned Railroad Salvage/ShopRite/McDonalds for some time. He lives in Wallingford, but spends a lot of the week here in West Haven. He wants to see continued development of Allingtown. With 5-6,000 students at UNH, there is a lot of traffic, which will help with other businesses in the neighborhood. He sees attracting new businesses in the area as a challenge.

- g. Ron Quagliani – He serves as the City Council liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission, spends most of his daytime hours in Allingtown (works for UNH) and lives on the West Shore of West Haven. He feels we should establish a template to guide new development. He feels there are some challenges we will have to address.

After self-introductions, Mr. Killeen reviewed the elements of the Allingtown Plan Outline, including recommendations for the Plan from the City's Plan of Conservation and Development in 2017. The Committee then discussed the Plan and identified the following themes and ideas:

- While sometimes the Allingtown neighborhood is seen as a stepchild of the City, it has been experiencing the highest investment levels of any area of the City over the last few years.
- Economic growth doesn't always go directly back into the neighborhood.
- The traffic circulation in coming years is likely to change since Lowe's and Sam's Club have closed/are closing and it's likely other businesses like Target may leave the area as well.
- Marginal Drive could be the location for a possible Greenway that could serve residents and students of Allingtown. Years ago, this section of the West River was viewed for first class rowing opportunities. This could be a world class recreational facility in West Haven connecting UNH, Yale, and Southern CT University.
- Over the years, Route 1 has been seen as mainly a location for automotive-related uses.
- Yale New Haven Medical System has sponsored homeowner assistance programs in New Haven. We should see if the same can be set up for West Haven.
- UNH would like to see the quality of housing stock controlled in the neighborhood and would like to see students occupying safer housing.
- The group discussed transportation alternatives for the neighborhood, including possible pedestrian trails and bike paths connecting the area where the Atwood was built. The Committee would like to see the Plan look at other transportation alternatives (e.g. scooters) as well.
- The Allingtown Plan should recognize the drivers that help move the area towards success (such as UNH).

Discussion of Community Workshop

- The consensus was that the workshop should be approximately 2 hours long and should be scheduled roughly from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- It was agreed that Notre Dame would be a desirable location for these sessions.
- When a date is selected (probably in February), there should be a snow date selected as well.
- Staff has agreed to try to find professional volunteer assistance (CT Chapter of American Planning Association) to assist with facilitating small group sessions.

Who Should be Involved in Workshop?

- The Committee would like to see an effort focused on the neighborhoods within 200 feet of Route 1, especially near the intersection of Campbell and Route 1.
- Businesses along Front Avenue
- As many groups as possible should be invited. The Committee would give this additional thought before their next meeting.

Next Meeting/Next Steps

- The Committee would like to meet one more time before a workshop is scheduled. Tentative date for this meeting would be the third week of January. Kathy Weilk said she would check the school's calendar and find some optional dates for the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM