

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017, AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Chairman Paul Bowman; Committee Members Patti Flynn-Harris and Timothy Slocum.
Staff: Assistant Town Manager, Arnett Talbot; Fire Marshal John Andrews
Guests: Sheldon Dill and Don Walesky, Chamber of Commerce.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. DISCUSSION RE: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FALL FESTIVAL
FIREWORKS

Mr. Dill expressed appreciation to the Town Council for its consideration of the fireworks show at the Fall Festival. In the past, the show has been very successful. With the addition of the newly acquired Chapman Property adjacent to Bartlem Park, there is a new location for shooting off the fireworks, 3 inch shells, in a smaller impact area. The vendor, Atlas, has been doing the fireworks in Cheshire since 1994, without any problems. The company representatives are willing to attend the July 11th Council meeting to answer questions and explain their plan.

On a map of the area, Mr. Dill and Mr. Walesky pointed out the proposed location for shooting the fireworks (Chapman Property). He noted that Atlas suggested the new location, which is further away from the pool structure, and exceeds the previous distance. For Atlas to be the vendor for the fireworks, the company must show credentials and insurance certificate.

Mr. Bowman asked if this is the only feasible area to shoot off the fireworks. He said the big concern is safety of those attending the event and property damage.

The committee was told by Mr. Walesky that the Fire Department pointed out their selected area, and recognizes that Atlas is a professional in this business. There will be some mowing between trees and preferred location for the fireworks. The Fire Department is also familiar with the pool roof fabric. The company's insurance coverage is \$10 Million. Mr. Walesky advised that Atlas always submits the insurance certificate and its professional credentials for the fireworks event.

With regard to the insurance certificate, Mr. Bowman stated that the "holder" should be the Town of Cheshire. The company has a contract with the Chamber of Commerce; all documents must be reviewed by the Town Attorney; and the company must indemnify the Town from liability.

Mr. Walesky stated that on the day of the event, Atlas will determine whether or not the fireworks show goes off or not. The cost of a fireworks display is \$12,000, and Atlas charges the Chamber of Commerce \$6,000, and has been generous to the Town and the Chamber on working this event. He also said the Cheshire fireworks event is the only one of its kind in the State, without a cost of admission.

Fire Marshal Andrews informed the committee that, in order for the fireworks to happen, he must sign off on them, with assurances the public is safe with a minimum of 300 feet from the launch site to where people are standing or sitting, or buildings are occupied. The proposed site is nearly 700 feet away from the pool structure with enough distance from the Ricci Building and Route 10 and other occupied buildings. Fire Marshal Andrews stated he has no reservations about signing the permit for the fireworks, has worked with Atlas many times, and chances of anything happening are very slim. Mr. Andrews has no concerns about going forward with the fireworks event.

Regarding the site for the fireworks, Fire Marshal Andrews said the Fire Department looked for a flat area, far enough away from the pool for the shooting location. On the map he pointed out where the fallout area would be, at the edge of the field, and it will be away from the pool structure.

Mr. Dill reported that a meeting was held at the site with Atlas on April 28th, and the company is agreeable to work with concerns or recommendations from the Fire Department.

At the fireworks event, Mr. Dill explained that people can make donations to supplement the cost, and any contribution from the Town Council would be appreciated. The Fall Festival is done in conjunction with the Town of Cheshire. Over the years there have been up to 7,000 people in attendance at the fireworks, and about 3,000 to 4,000 people at the festival during the day.

The committee members agreed that representatives from Atlas should be invited to attend the July 11th Council meeting to discuss and review plans and details of the fireworks display. Mr. Bowman said the matter will be on the agenda of that meeting.

4. NAMING OF FORMER DIME SAVINGS PROPERTY.

Bill Sherman and Mr. DeVyllder represented the Environment Commission which supports renaming of the Dime Savings property to "Yankee Expressway Highlands".

Mr. Sherman explained the property was purchased in 1995 with the management plan approved in June 2006. The proposed renaming of the property is in compliance with the requirements of the Town Naming Policy, and the reasons for renaming are stated in the Commission's letter to the Council.

It was stated by Mr. Slocum that he was never happy with the Dime Savings name on this property. He asked about the proposal to rename the property being opened up to public input, i.e. having a contest for the renaming.

According to Mr. Sherman, that has not been undertaken for this renaming request.

Mr. Bowman and Ms. Flynn-Harris stated their support of renaming the property.

Mr. DeVlyder informed the committee that the request goes along with the Council's rules on renaming; it is a geographical name; and Route 84 is the Yankee Expressway.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Planning Committee approves and supports the renaming of the Dime Savings Property to the Yankee Expressway Highlands.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. NAMING OF BASKETBALL COURTS AT MacNAMARA LEGION FIELD.

The committee was informed by Ms. Talbot that the Parks and Recreation Commission has tabled this agenda item until its next meeting on September 6, 2017.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

MARILYN W. MILTON, CLERK