

Minutes  
of the joint meeting of the  
Planning and Development Subcommittee and the Town Council  
Tuesday, November 30, 2023  
Veterans Room

- Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.
- Item 2. Roll Call, Present were Chairperson Daniel, Councilor Adams, Citizen member LaRochelle. Citizen member Bernadone arrived at 6:07. Councilor Rivas arrived at 6:15pm. Also present were TM Jovan, Councilors Chenier, Lazo, Marketti and Ortiz. Also present were Gus Steeves, Jon Pulaski and Peg Dean.
- Item 3. The minutes of September 19, 2023, October 11, 2023 and November 14, 2023 were all considered and approved based on motions by Citizen LaRochelle and seconds by Councilor Adams. Approved: All approved 3-0. Bernadone and Rivas absent
- Item 4. Review/Discuss whether to recommend Town Council extend the contract with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for Town Planner services through June 30, 2024 and allow the Town Manager to sign all related paperwork. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval. Moved by LaRochelle and second by Adams. Manager Jovan noted that the position is vacant and there are no new applicants in the pipeline. Pioneer Valley is willing to continue and the costs are covered in the budget. He also noted that Ken Comia is very valuable to the Town. Councilor Marketti had a question about the pay and Peg Dean noted that it is what was asked for in September. Motion PASSED 3-0-1. Bernadone abstaining and Rivas absent.
- Item 5. Discuss/Review whether to recommend Town Council accept the Making it Public 2024 Award for \$15,000 and allow the Town Manager to sign all related paperwork. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for approval. Moved by LaRochelle and second by Adams. Peg brought forward from previous Town Council items. Artwork in Town is funded with other funds and compliments the current project. Councilor Adams stated he wants "something Southbridge" in the work. Coming from current events or past history. Didi asked who's liable for damages to which Peg said the artist is responsible him/herself. Councilor Lazo wants a historical Southbridge landmark. Councilor Chenier wants to express the diversity of the community. Gus wants to favor Southbridge artists. Jon Pulawski is looking for suggestions of other art forms besides murals. Councilor Marketti said that he favors the optical history of the Town and wants it in a visible location. Motion PASSED 5-0.

- Item 6. Discuss/review whether to recommend Town Council accept the Community Planning Grant for \$75,000 for an Urban Renewal Plan – Major Amendment and allow the Town Manager to sign any related paperwork. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval.  
Moved by LaRochelle and second by Bernadone.  
Jack stated that the grant is important to Town. Dave stated we need this and thanked Peg for her work. Mike Marketti asked if the Redevelopment Authority has any plans. Peg said yes going back two years. There have been many changes and now we can evaluate what was and what is now.  
Motion PASSED 5-0.
- Item 7. Discuss/review whether to approve submitting an Expression of Interest for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action grant, due December 15, 2023, to 1) repair the failing portion of River Street being designed by BSC Group, 2) address the levee/dam system Downtown and establish flood control procedures, and 3) evaluate flood protection opportunities for the wastewater treatment facility and allow the Town Manager to sign all related paperwork. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for approval.  
Moved by LaRochelle and second by Adams.  
Peg stated that this is a way to systematically look at projects potentially eligible for funding. Jasmin was pleased to see this item and offered her thanks. Gus said this protects the Community as a Whole. Mike M noted that there is \$3million by a 20% match. We should look at other areas too. Jack stated we meet the match on River Street already.  
Motion PASSED 5-0.
- Item 8. Adjourn  
Motion by LaRochelle and second by Adams.  
Motion PASSED 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Submitted by John Daniel, Committee Chairperson