

Downtown Business District  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 27, 2014  
330 Main Street, Middletown, CT

Attendees

Diane Gervais (Chair)	Jeff Pugliese (Chamber)
Peter Harding (Riverview Center)	Shane Grant (Downtown Business District)
Mike Dipiro (Commissioner)	Pamela Steele (Business owner)
Trevor Davis (Commercial Real Estate)	Tom Ford (Commissioner)
Geen Thazhampallath (Parking Dept.)	Marc Levin (Commissioner)
Tom Marano (Economic Development)	Jennifer Alexander (Commissioner)
Michiel Wackers (State Planning Office)	Valerie Scribano (Middlesex Oak Mutual)
Bill Russo (Public Works)	Gary Wallace (Police)

Minutes

- Motion made by Marc Levin to approve July minutes.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report - Mike DiPiro**

We are one and one-fifth through the year, and are under budget. All July receipts are turned into the City, ready to request first half installment of funds through the Finance Department. At this time we have \$63,000.00.

- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Treasure Report approved.

**Maintenance Report -**

None

**Beautification**

None

**Marketing Report**

None

**Lead Guide Report - Shane Grant**

None

**Police Report - Gary Wallace**

110 out of 111 slated.

In getting ready for the start of school tomorrow, August 27<sup>th</sup> eyes will be on the safety side of things busy with more traffic, busses, kids etc.

Farm Hill School - Practiced emergency situations/drills in using teachers, students and public volunteers, with staged event(s) in how to handle crises situations. It was an eye opener to most

RECEIVED  
14 DEC -2 PM 2:02  
TOWN CLERK  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06455

Who were involved in participating in the event. The emergency drill(s) were designed to identify most of our weaknesses. The police department plans on looking to do more of these drills in the future. They are looking for more participants, if anyone interested. Overall, things went well.

Jen Alexander owner of Kid City expressed concerns of having the beat officers stay or go in regards to the downtown resident people hanging out in front of store businesses. The residents do live there and is a sensitive matter. Any feedback would be good. The Middletown police are aware and do what they can by law.

If business owners see any kids of grade school age, that look like they should be in school to call the police department with location and description. The police will track students down, get them back in school causing less potential trouble in the downtown area.

Wesleyan University - Gary Wallace, Sean Moriarty and Acting Public Safety Director will be having a general meeting to discuss Wesleyan students coming back to campus, safety concerns/issues. The police department needs to be made aware of any high profile students on campus.

#### **Public Works - Bill Russo**

Mill and pave Dingwall Drive, not planning on doing too much at this time, going to see where parking garage project goes. Public works will be looking at Court Street at the same time. Overall Motorcycle Mania received positive input, working with police department.

In promoting the riverfront area, on Tuesday Night (September 1<sup>st</sup>) Marco Gaylord and his Symphonic Band will be playing down the Riverfront, gazebo area near the Canoe Club. Trevor Davis, Michiel Wackers and Geen Thazhampallath play an important role in promoting the riverfront area. It is has a great view of the river, shorter walk than the north side, less noise and a nicer place in giving business to the Canoe Club, keeping the area active overall.

There was flooding twice, newly finished basement in Mike DiPiro's building, as well as the fire department and street valve at Liberty Square. There seems to be an issue with the pressure relief valves and contractors working at night. Guy Russo along with the engineer will be looking into what the issues are and will correct problem.

Diane Gervais from Amato's Toy and Hobby concerned with the colorful markings on the streets/sidewalks. It is believed it is from water department. "Call before you Dig" and Guy Russo would have the answers, as to what the answers might be.

Bill Russo would like to compliment Tom on the new Street Lights, and bringing good things to the table. It appears the City is getting closer in purchasing the cost effective street lighting for Downtown Middletown. It has been a long time coming. There is money there to help businesses in conserving electricity, by calling the town hall for assistance.

## **Parking Report - Geen Thazhampallath**

### **➤ Presentation of Downtown Garage and other Related Projects**

Geen Thazhampallath from the Parking Department and Michiel Wackers from Planning and Zoning presented for 30 minutes regarding the various projects implications for the DBD and other potential impacts. Various committee members asked a variety of questions. Full presentation and power point is available through the parking department and planning and zoning

### **North End**

None

### **Planning - Tom Marano**

Tom reported he had three grand openings with solar companies.

Biggest driving force is the presentation of the Downtown Garage and Related Riverfront projects

### **Chamber - Jeff Pugliese**

None

Motion to Adjourn, at 10:00 AM.