

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE
REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION COMMITTEE

AUGUST 23, 2016

PRESENT Linda Russo, Chair; Councillors Bill Horan and Mike Kurker

ALSO Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
PRESENT Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Susan Kniep
Don Sugalski

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 5, 2016 Minutes

MOTION By Mike Kurker
seconded by Bill Horan
to **approve** the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Real Estate Acquisition &
Disposition Committee meeting.
Motion carried 3/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, stated that the Town is not responsible for taking properties off the hands of the owners.

NEW BUSINESS

1083 Burnside Avenue - Easement

Assistant Corporation Counsel Rich Gentile discussed the guard rail at 1083 Burnside Avenue, over which the Town needs an easement. The owner of the property is willing to give the Town the easement for no charge. The easement will permit the Town to access this guard rail which provides protection at the Walnut Street Bridge over the Hockanum River.

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Mike Kurker

that this Committee recommends that the Town Council accept an easement from 1083 Burnside Avenue Realty, LLC. over, under and across a portion of the property known as 1083 Burnside Avenue, for the purpose of roadway infrastructure maintenance (bridge structure, guard rail and riprap), which easement area is more particularly described on a map entitled: "PROPERTY SURVEY PROPOSED DUNKIN DONUTS 1083 BURNSIDE AVENUE PREPARED FOR 1083 BURNSIDE AVE. DONUTS, LLC. EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT", SCALE 1"=20', DATED 08/11/2014, REVISED THROUGH 12/19/2015 – EASEMENT ADDED, MAP NUMBER A-13-045-B, SHEET NUMBER 4 OF 24, PREPARED BY DUTTON ASSOCIATES, LLC., 67 EASTERN BOULEVARD GLASTONBURY, CT 06033" which map will be filed in the East Hartford Town Clerk's office.
Motion carried 3/0.

1252-1256 Main Street

Mayor Leclerc initiated a discussion of the property at 1252-1256 Main Street which was marketed to the Town through Graham Real Estate. The billboard will be taken down from the property, which will greatly reduce the value of the property since this revenue stream will cease to exist. The property was described as a "rooming house" with numerous violations and an infestation of bed bugs. The Health Department has had numerous interactions at this property, as has the EHFD and EHPD. The Mayor will look into whether the taxes on the property are up to date. The seller claimed the appraised value was \$481,000 but the Town would get its own appraisal if there were interest in acquiring the parcel. Eileen Buckheit, Development Director, noted that this property falls under the redevelopment zone from when the CVS Plaza was created. Ms. Buckheit noted that the building would be difficult to rehab and would likely need to be razed. Attorney Gentile suggested that the Town learn what the listing price for the property would be, but Ms. Buckheit noted that there is not yet a listing for the property. Councillor Horan suggested looking into the cost of demolishing the property and that Attorney Gentile report back to the Committee once a listing price has been communicated to the Town. The Mayor will inquire regarding any fines owed on the property at the request of Susan Kniep.

No further action taken at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1718 Main Street – Update

Attorney Gentile updated the Committee on the parcel at 1718 Main Street, which involved the Town's appraisal coming in well below the asking price. The seller will be moving on, and the Town is not interested in this parcel at the selling price.

No further action.

Columbus Circle Extension –Update

Attorney Gentile indicated that there has been no action since April 2016 when he was in contact with Attorney Alexander, the Housing Authority's legal counsel. Attorney Gentile will update the Committee if there is any progress on the matter.

No further action taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Mike Kurker
seconded by Bill Horan
to **adjourn** (6:00 p.m.)
Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Town Council
Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Tim Bockus, Public Works Director