

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo, Vice Chair
Nick Coogan
Liana Ferreira Fenton
Tom Kowalczyk
David Lepore
Robert M. Silva, Chairman
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Erin Donovan-Boyle
Rocky Kempenaar, Town Council Liaison
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council Liaison

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Silva at 4:30pm

1. Discussion with Rich Youngkin of the Watch Hill utilities undergrounding project.

Mr. Wolanski introduced Mr. Youngkin, who described his many years doing planning and urban design work in the area.

Mr. Youngkin provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the recent effort to relocate utilities underground in the Watch Hill section of Westerly, RI. He described the funding that was secured to complete the project, coordination with the town and National Grid, and logistical issues that have arisen with completing the removal of existing street lighting and installing new lighting. The majority of the funding was from private sources. He advised the importance of getting buy-in from the town and the business community, and in the case of the Atlantic Beach District, RIDOT. Coordinating with planned road work can be a money saving opportunity.

There was discussion of funding options. It was noted that the potential for private funding is likely much less than was realized in Watch Hill. Mr. Youngkin suggested private foundations as a possible funding alternative.

There was discussion of the state road work planned for Aquidneck Ave. Mr. Wolanski stated that reconstruction of the roadway, which the town has requested, is not included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There was discussion that installing a utility duct under any proposed new sidewalks might be an alternative to locating the utilities in the road, and would likely be less expensive. It was suggested that seeking funding to conduct a feasibility study of potential options might be the next step in consideration of a project in the Atlantic Beach District.

Due to the time, Mr. Silva requested that the remaining agenda items be considered during the November 9, 2016 meeting. There were no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner