



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Planning & Development

815 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 899
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
PHONE: 860-923-9475
E-MAIL: planner@thompsonct.org
www.thompsonct.org

REGULAR MEETING- Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC)
Friday, September 10, 2021 – 9:00 AM
Merrill Seney Community Room

Members Attending: J. Blanchette – Chair, K. Beausoleil, J. Hall, N. O'Leary
Others attending: T. Penn-Gesek – Director of Planning & Development

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:12 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. June 11, 2021 Regular Meeting – N. O'Leary moves/K. Beausoleil seconds to approve the minutes – passes unanimously
- b. August 13, 2021 Regular Meeting – postponed to October meeting

3. CORRESPONDENCE – none

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- a. Development of 630 Riverside Drive - no new updates
- b. Revisions to FEMA Flood map
J. Blanchette shares two maps with the committee for context. One is a map prepared by CHA for developer J. Gumpert in relation to the project at 929 Riverside, showing the current floodplain. On that map, there is a minimum of 2 feet of clearance from the footprint of the building to the 100-year flood mark. In contrast, draft maps of revisions to the floodplain being prepared by FEMA show the flood mark roughly 7 feet higher. This would have serious implications for the development of the River Mill. J. Blanchette suggests that in the new model, FEMA seems to be treating Riverside Drive where it crosses the river to the south of the mill as a dam. T. Penn-Gesek will reach out to the CT DEMHS/FEMA contacts, as well as USACE and Rep. Courtney's office for assistance. It will be important to have that information corrected before it is formally adopted by FEMA. There are also implications in the new flood maps for 630 Riverside, although they are less immediately problematic.
- c. Blain road intersection – LID drainage
Based on injuries and other extended absences from the DPW, the construction of the Blain Road intersection improvements will likely be delayed until Spring of 2022, per the Director of Public Works. Once that work is close to its start point, DPW will need a reminder to construct the bump out with a depressed lawn, to accommodate for future LID drainage measures (rain garden). T. Penn-Gesek will coordinate with ECCD and possibly with UConn Master Gardeners for installation of the rain garden and other landscaping.
- d. Future committee projects/grants?
Once the grant seeking to leverage the ARPA funds is submitted to the CT Communities Challenge Grant program, there may be a downtown revitalization program that would be the natural next project for MSRAC to take on. More details in terms of project eligibility will be available from the State sometime in September.
- e. Other Committee business
Chair Blanchette will contact MSRAC member C. Langlois to determine if she still wishes to be a part of the committee. If not, a letter of resignation will be requested, K. Beausoleil would be elevated to a full member and a new alternate will be needed.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS – none additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development