

MINUTES

Natchaug-Willimantic NRZ Steering Committee
Regular Meeting
4-5 p.m. Oct. 25, 2012
Windham Mills

Present – Chair Brenda Sullivan, Secretary John LaTour, Treasurer Roger Morin, members Kathy Dubay, Pam Viens, Andrew Seeling, Joel Meyers, Town Planner James Finger (at 4:25 p.m.)

1. Call to Order – 4:05 p.m.

2. Opportunity for the Public to Speak – none present.

3. New Business –

a. Policy regarding requests for letters of support from the NRZ Steering Committee – it was the general consensus that whenever possible, a presentation will be made by the individual asking for a letter of support from the NRZ (i.e. for grant applications) and/or materials will be sent to NRZ members in time for discussion before voting, which might require scheduling a special meeting. In the event of insufficient time for discussion, the NRZ may choose to decline to provide a letter of support.

b. Changing time, date and location of regular meetings – requires a vote. B. Sullivan moved and R. Morin seconded the motion to change the NRZ Steering Committee’s regular meetings to **the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Windham Mills** (beginning in November) – in an effort to enable more members and the public to attend our meetings; and to cancel the December 2012 meeting because of the holidays. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on Hour Exchange/Time Bank. – This is a project sponsored by ACCESS Agency. The NRZ wrote a letter of support for the grant to fund it. B. Sullivan has been appointed to the steering committee, dubbed the “Kitchen Cabinet.” B. Sullivan encouraged NRZ members to attend future pot-luck networking meetings to learn more about it and get involved.

B. Sullivan also noted that the statewide NRZ Advisory Committee will meet on Tues. Oct. 30, 2012, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Connecticut Room, Memorial Hall at Central CT State University, 1615 Stanley St., New Britain. She plans to attend with Pam Viens. [NOTE: the meeting was cancelled because of Hurricane Sandy; according to Bruce Wittchen of CT OPM - Intergovernmental Policy Division, there currently are no plans to reschedule. The last meeting apparently was held in 2010.]

Bus shelters – K. Dubay reported that in her capacity as a realtor, she had received a petition from UConn students she’s helped find housing in Willimantic, who would like the Town of Windham to install shelters at the bus stops, since they rely on public transit for transportation to and from UConn. Dubay also noted that she’s seen mothers, children and the elderly also

standing at these stops exposed to all kinds of severe weather. K. Dubay asked permission to write a letter to the Town Manager asking what kind of state or federal funds might be available to install these shelters.

Town Planner James Finger suggested the NRZ identify locations that would be sufficiently secure from vandalism. He also said there is one shelter included in the Main Street grant the town is in the process of applying for. K. Dubay suggested shelters for the stop across from St. Mary's at Valley and Jackson Streets. J. Finger also suggested she contact Mindy Perkins at Windham Region Transit District (WRTD).

B. Sullivan made a motion to give K. Dubay approval to write a letter on behalf of herself as a member of the NRZ asking for the Town to work with the NRZ to establish bus shelters. J. Meyers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Sullivan asked R. Morin to work with J. Finger to create an updated map of the NRZ, in PDF format, that can then be used for creating informational/outreach materials.

R. Morin told the NRZ about concerns expressed to the regional planning agency about a dangerous curve at Route 203 and Jerusalem Road.

4. Old Business –

a. Approval of Oct. 4 2012 Special Meeting minutes. B. Sullivan moved to approve the minutes, with a correction to the spelling of Viens (under Agenda item 6 – Opportunity to add agenda items to future meetings.) Motion was seconded by Pam Viens, and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer R. Morin reported a balance of \$3,201.29

6. Opportunity to add agenda items to future meetings – P. Viens would like discussion at a future meeting of how the NRZ might help restore funding for the "Weed & Seed" program, which supports police enforcement and positive outreach to reduce crime, particularly among young people.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by NRZ Steering Committee Chair Brenda Sullivan