

Citizen Roundtable

Meeting Notes

June 8, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Thomas Memorial Library Community Room

Present: Councilors Garvin, Lennon, MacAuslan, Grennon and Sullivan

Staff: Mike McGovern

Others: Linda Surabian, Carolyn Vetro, John Voltz, Cindy Voltz, Chris Straw, Scott Clark, Sandy Larlee, Todd Larlee, Betty Jane Shreve, Mary Otulakowski, Paul Seidman, Jessie Timberlake and Anne Swift-Kayatta.

The evening was opened by Patty Grennon. Individuals had placed notes on small pieces of paper indicating the topics they wished to have discussed. The topic receiving the most mentions was the transfer station and the upcoming referendum

Jamie Garvin gave an overview of the proposal that will be voted upon. He said that about \$500,000 needs to be spent just to replace 40 year old equipment. The balance is for a new system that will be safer, more convenient and that with greater compacting will reduce transportation costs. In response to comments regarding curbside pickup/recycling, Jamie and Jessica Sullivan noted that curbside had little support in a citizen survey but it was extensively looked at and found to be an expensive alternative. There are also complicating issues about service on private roads and narrow public roads.

Chris Straw raised a concern that there is lax enforcement of stickers at the transfer station.

Scott Clark said that he is in favor of curbside recycling. He said the town should have given it a more extensive look and that the study did not consider the financial cost of driving to the transfer station and the environmental impact of hydrocarbons emitted by the vehicles traversing the town.

There were comments about the parking near the swap shop. It needs to be safer and there needs to be more of it. The new plan will better separate traffic movements.

The second general topic was town development with a focus on the town center.

Paul Seidman questioned demographic projections. How do they indicate that multiplex developments are needed? How would the council recommend citizens get involved in development proposal earlier so they can be much more impactful? He said that condos do not appeal to local citizens and nearly everyone in his multiplex development had more there from out of town. He said the lack of need is demonstrated by unsold units at Eastman Meadows. He asked why the town was obligated to continue to develop Cape Elizabeth without local citizens needing housing. Scott Clark said his neighborhood recently had three widows relocate to Colonial Village due to costs.

Cindy Voltz said she is not opposed to more dense development. She would like to have seen a Hill Way development that had accessible development on the main street instead of Hill Way. She does not believe the design standards work well in the ordinance as developers maximize what they can do. She said the developer should have been required to place sidewalks on both sides of the road. She said it is difficult to understand how to impact a development's plans. She asked if the town council has oversight over the planning board.

John Voltz said that speed limits need to be looked at. The speed limits are not consistent with the vision of a denser town center.

Jessica Sullivan said the town needs to be careful in balancing the rights of property owners.

Paul Seidman said he would like to see the comprehensive plan evaluate the concept of smart growth. He also asked what the definition of open space is.

There was a general discussion on concerns that citizens need a better idea of what is going on early. Citizens do not really know what is going on in town. The town needs to be more proactive in communicating to citizens. Jamie Garvin noted how well the parent's associations in the schools update parents but there is no equivalent for municipal issues.

The next topic was pay and display at Fort Williams Park.

Chris Straw believes that pay and display needs to be looked at again. He does not think that it should apply to local citizens, only to visitors. A couple of the councilors present indicated the town would be looking at revenue opportunities such as pay and display later this year.

There were several comments about the pool project. When is the work going to be done to replace the dectron unit? How long will it take. Mike McGovern said that the details are not yet finalized but he would follow up to get more information available.

Patty Grennon thanked everyone for coming and folks lingered for a bit enjoying refreshments and individual conversations. The evening was over at about 8:45 p.m.

Mike McGovern
Note taker

These notes are not intended to be complete minutes nor a verbatim recitation of all that was said.

