



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**131 Cedar Street, Newington CT**  
**Conf. Room L-101 (lower level)**

**February 26, 2015**  
**7:30 p.m.**

## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL MEETING: GOAL SETTING SESSION**

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Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on February 26, 2015.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor McDonald - absent  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

Staff Present

John Salomone – Town Manager  
Jaime Trevethan – Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration

Facilitators – Paul Decelles and Phyllis Rizey, Decision Point, LLC

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ON AGENDA) - none

VIII. FORMULATION OF SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Councilors discussed and formulated short and long term goals. See the attached summary of the discussion as well as the formulated goals.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ON AGENDA) – None

XI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS- None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Borjeson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor McDonald absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan  
Asst. to the Town Manager for Administration

Attachments:

- 1) Goal Setting Discussion Summary (January 31 and February 26, 2015)

## Town Council Discussion on Strategic Goal Setting – January 31, 2015

- Strengths – Busway
  - Opportunity - Busway will bring new entrepreneurial opportunities for the Town in the immediate area.
  - Opportunity - Busway will also increase development interest in the immediate area.
- Strengths – Gas line in Town
  - Opportunity - Gas line is very attractive to buyers/developers.
- Strengths – Town Center is very attractive asset
  - Opportunity – could add equally attractive high income high density housing
- Strengths – College community
  - Opportunity – need for safe/attractive Junior/Senior year college student off campus housing
- Strengths – 1-12 grade school population decreased by 500 students – diminishing need
- Strengths – Sophisticated fire/police to support increases in development and population
- Goal/Aspiration – Find a way to influence conversation and collaboration with Boards/Committees/Commissions on course of action. As an example, specifically to
  - Discover reality behind perception of Newington as an “overbuilt Town”
  - Consider high income High Density Housing options
    - Possible Obstacle – Town Council may seem like trying to push agendas if they promote initiatives to other Commissions.
      - Possible Solutions – Town Council chooses members for all Boards/Committees/Commissions – should make these appointments less political
    - Possible Obstacle – Perception might be that Town is serving Seniors/Millennials without serving all Town constituents.
      - Possible Solutions – Ensure our language/communication does not send improper messages that can be misunderstood.
      - Possible Solutions – Improve communication/education with Town residents by investing in IT solutions and other communication methods to better share valuable information:
        - Establish better and more methods to share relevant information with population
        - Establish regular “interactive dialogue” sections during our Town Council meetings and other meetings
        - Do outreach blasts to public
        - Explain the budget meetings process to public
      - Possible Solutions – Consider hiring a Planning & Development Consultant Company to investigate and present to the P&Z Committee the potential for an “Overlay Zone”. This Consultant Company could also implement plan if approved.
- Goal/Aspiration – Develop a clear vision for Town growth and ensure it is not changed after initiated.
- Goal/Aspiration – Maintain high end/aesthetically pleasing additions to Town housing – maintain curb appeal.
- Goal/Aspiration – Have additional goal setting sessions



Town Council Discussion on Strategic Goal Setting – Follow-up session - February 26, 2015

- Goal/Aspiration – Create an open dialogue with the Town residents, ourselves and other Town Committees and Commissions to find new, realistic & sustainable development solutions that break the mold and adapt when necessary, while maintaining open space and continuing to improve our Town’s valuable assets.
  - As an example, we need \$2 – 2 1/2 million in additional revenue in order to maintain current services in Town. We need to ensure the dialogue remains focused on all potential solutions with an open mind. If “high density housing” is a solution that the Town should consider, then we need to ensure that our dialogue also reinforces the perception that although it automatically suggests low income housing that it can also mean student housing or high income “empty nesters”.
  - Address 20/20 Plan as a good planning tool, but not as a Bible that must be adhered to, in spite of changes that have happened and will influence our future.
  - Seek subsidies and welcome private investment
- Goal/Aspiration – Regain a more cohesive Town by elevating the dialogue between ourselves, between us and the Town residents, and between us and other Town Committees and Commissions
  - Become the “pace cars” for cohesive, respectful and collaborative communication within the Town
  - Attempt to minimize the impact of private agendas and other elements that could cause a toxic environment. Ensure the communication always centers around “doing what is right for the Town”.
- Goal/Aspiration – Identify and execute more opportunities to collaborate with other cities and towns to solve problems using shared resources
  - Create partnerships with other sources to ensure economies of scale.
  - As an example career vocational support, special needs services, transitional services