



Tanya Lane
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING – GOAL SETTING SESSION

Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall
5:30 P.M.

January 20, 2016

Mayor Zartarian called the special meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. on January 20, 2016.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor Manke (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Way: Mrs. Braverman asked the Council to consider working with condominium associations to help meet their needs.

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

Paul Decelles and Phyllis Rizey of Decision Point, LLC facilitated the Council's discussion of strengths, opportunities, and aspirations. From there, the Council formulated its goals and objectives. Attached is a summary of the Council's discussion and goals.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA (none)

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Deputy Mayor Klett thanked the members of the public who attended the goal setting sessions. Councilor Manke apologized for being late and remarked that it was a very good goal setting session.

Councilor Budrejko stated that she glad the Council talked about specifics and remarked that it will have tangible things to work on.

Councilor Anest stated that the Council set attainable goals and expressed confidence that the Council can obtain these goals. She recommended that the Council reviews its goals in 3 months.

Councilor Nagel indicated that he was pleased with session and remarked that it was very beneficial. Councilor Serra stated that the goals are attainable and that the Council needs to work to make them happen.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor DelBuono moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Asst. to the Town Manager - Administration

attach.



**Town of Newington
Strategic Goal Setting Session
January 20, 2016**

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
Have System in place to address accepting solutions that we cannot afford, e.g. bonding limits	Could access \$ from creative sources other than bonding, e.g. fireworks and other opportunities -paid by private sector		
Development could be source of additional \$	Town still has areas for development		
Busway provides a good incentive for additional development	Busway provides attractive opportunities for additional development		
Voice of all Newington Support Groups	Can provide information to them		
Strong members of all Town Commissions & Boards	Could hold an "Economic Summit" with Commissions & Groups to increase communication with these entities and the electorate	Could hold an "Economic Summit" with Commissions & Groups to increase communication with these entities and the electorate	
Talented personnel in Town Departments	Repeat Saturday's session with Town Manager & Town Council, where all Department Heads shared important Departmental information	Repeat Saturday's session with Town Manager & Town Council, where all Department Heads shared important Departmental information	Establish a repetitive schedule whereby all Department Heads would share important Departmental information with Town Manager & Town Council
	Need "Traffic Cop" to get answers to questions - the right answer, not rumors	Communicate Town Manager is current "Traffic Cop"	

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
Location - near 2 major cities & 2 major highways	Need traffic control/traffic calming (84 & MDC)		
	must be considered with all new development		
	Need open dialogue with State Police and Legislators		
	Provide \$ for more staff	Give Police Chief support & authority to recommend staffing changes and increases/decreases	Give Police Chief support & authority to institute staff changes, increases/decreases to meet safety needs of Town

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
Preserve Open Space, e.g. Cedar Mountain, Indian Hill	Maintain our stewardship responsibility of Open Space we have		
Zoning laws protect our Open Space	Keep an eye on parcels we do not have ownership		
	Need to work with Land Trusts and Open Space Committee to maintain Open Space	Maintain information flow when any parcels are in jeopardy or available so we can choose to react	Maintain information flow when any parcels are in jeopardy or available so we can choose to react
		We need to find additional revenue sources so we can react quickly if we choose to react	

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
<p>Newington is a unique place in a unique geographical position</p>	<p>Cedar Street has significant auto traffic, yet don't stop to see our businesses. Need to consider website promotion & better signage on main traffic areas directing traffic to Main Street businesses.</p>	<p>Consider website promotion & better signage on main traffic areas directing traffic to Main Street businesses.</p>	<p>Investigate website promotion & better signage on main traffic areas directing traffic to Main Street businesses.</p>
<p>Newington downtown has many unique retail destinations but is not readily visible</p>	<p>Town can't add any substantial residential, but can restructure retail/manufacturing</p>		
	<p>Town can promote all current businesses to help them grow</p>		
	<p>Town Council & Mayor could visit local businesses to understand their needs and build/solidify bonds between them and the Town</p>	<p>Town Council & Mayor could visit local businesses to understand their needs and build/solidify bonds between them and the Town</p>	<p>Town Council & Mayor will establish plans to visit local businesses to understand their needs and build/solidify bonds between them and the Town</p>

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
	Town Infrastructure needs to be addressed: Buildings (e.g. Town Hall), roads, parks		
	Look at all Town infrastructure issues in total rather than a separate issues in isolation		
	Get a referendum addressing the infrastructure issues by year end	By the end of the year, have a credible plan in place for infrastructure issue: get all information necessary to make a good decision, find resources to fund program, find consensus position that all Town Council members, Mayor and Town Manager can support	By the end of the year, have a credible plan in place for infrastructure issue: get all information necessary to make a good decision, find resources to fund program, find consensus position that all Town Council members, Mayor and Town Manager can support
	work collaboratively with Boards to find solutions		
	Could consider splitting projects into smaller pieces		
	Should produce a comprehensive plan		
	Need to get cohesive support of Town Council, Mayor and Town Manager on whatever plan emerges		
	Have to remember and support that this is not a competition		

Continued - Strengths	Continued - Opportunities	Continued - Aspirations	Continued - Results
	<p>Create another Committee reporting to the Town Council.</p> <p>Purpose - to build collaboration with all the individual Building Committees operating in isolation, help them prioritize their suggestions, and report to all on progress being made. This would diffuse/minimize/perhaps eliminate competition between Committees. No consensus on selection method - political appointment or not.</p>		
		<p>Find method to help Building Committees share information and openly see/share/question choices being made in isolation - perhaps helping them form an umbrella committee populated from members of each individual Committee.</p>	<p>Find method to help Building Committees share information and openly see/share/question choices being made in isolation - perhaps helping them form an umbrella committee populated from members of each individual Committee.</p>

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
	Collaborate with Boards - especially Board of Ed		
	Stop Turf Wars between Boards and Departments		
	Can potentially reduce taxes		
	Look at Departments/areas that the Town can build collaboration	Find areas of potential collaboration within Town government	Find areas of potential collaboration within Town government

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
Town Staff is very competent	Can find better methods for information sharing within Departments and within Town		
Information sharing from Department Heads was both informative and inspirational looking at all they accomplish	Can be more of a unified team		
	Culture Matters! Need to consider methods to build collaboration between Departments	Culture Matters! Need to consider methods to build collaboration between Departments	Town Manager should be charged with a goal to discover, recommend and execute methods that best build collaboration within Town government
	Should build collaboration for employees at all levels within Town government	Should build collaboration for employees at all levels within Town government	
	Should consider "Town Employee of the Year" award, with meaningful rewards attached to the award		
	Should consider "Staff Appreciation Day", or other methods to demonstrate our appreciation		
	Need to get better at building a culture where "water cooler conversations" build collaborative solutions		

Strengths	Opportunities	Aspirations	Results
Residents have strong community pride	Some Residents feel that we are losing some signs of community pride (e.g. trash & low economic development), and we need to get it back. Need to remember who we are and who we could be.		
	Need to find ways to promote Newington, e.g. promote neighborhood groups	Need to find ways to promote Newington, e.g. promote neighborhood groups	Find ways to promote Newington, e.g. promote neighborhood groups
	Need to find ways to mobilize and encourage volunteerism	Need to find ways to mobilize and encourage volunteerism	Find ways to mobilize and encourage volunteerism
	Need to more openly and publicly celebrate and promote our successes	Need to more openly and publicly celebrate and promote our successes on video/Town website	
	Economic Development Director find new ways to showcase Town		
	Develop a PR campaign to celebrate Town - promote positive aspects of Town		
	Find ways to do more Community outreach		
	Need to feature Townspeople on video/TV/social media doing good works		
	Could bring in an Intern to investigate methods to accomplish these promotional goals		

Continued - Strengths	Continued - Opportunities	Continued - Aspirations	Continued - Results
	<p>Could involve Parks & Rec in developing/coordinating community-based "Block Parties"</p>		
		<p>Make it a Town Council/Mayor/Town Manager priority to find ways to promote our good works</p>	<p>Make it a Town Council/Mayor/Town Manager priority to find ways to promote our good works</p>

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