

**TOWN of RIDGEFIELD – CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 15, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.**

**APPROVED/AMENDED MINUTES**

**TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 400 MAIN STREET**  
**RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877**

Present: R. Larson, A. Behymer, E. Burns, D. Daughters, L.Hanley, M. Miller, T. O’Connor, E. Tyrrell, J. Zawacki.

Via phone: Rebecca Augur and Jason Williams of Milone & MacBroom

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Communication Strategy for Charrette
4. Charrette Workshop Agenda
5. Review of Minutes from September 21 and September 28 meetings
6. Next Steps
7. Adjourn

Call to Order - D. Larson called the Citizen’s Committee Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment - There was no comment from the public.

Communication Strategy for Charrette – The communication plan developed in the last meeting was confirmed and continued to be executed.

Charrette Workshop Agenda -

Rebecca Augur reviewed the proposed Charrette Agenda -

1. Introduction – Committee and Consultant. She plans to bring four additional consultants from her firm.
2. Goal of the workshop (obtain input on potential long-term uses)
3. Brief history of Schlumberger site
4. Community survey results
5. Existing conditions analysis of site

6. Quick intro to concepts
7. Planning stations – each attendee will rotate through four stations in 20-minute sessions. In each session, consultant staff will explain a specific conceptual plan, such as passive open space, and solicit feedback both verbally and in writing. The specific concepts will be determined by the survey results. The “trick” is to get people while at a discussion group to think of “different” ideas.
8. Wrap-up discussion – consultant staff will report to the whole group on themes heard at each station and facilitate final discussion
9. Next steps – where do we go next from this meeting?

Additional topics –

R. Augur said that M&M previously did a study for Ridgefield regarding the possible building of a public safety center on the Schlumberger property – Town Hall would be SE of the Philip Johnson Building and the Fire Department building would be North of the Philip Johnson Building and the auditorium. The buildings would form a semi-circle around a Town green with parking below ground.

D. Larson passed out previously proposed plans for a hiking/biking trail. This is something that the Schlumberger property could be tied in with.

D. Larson reported on his conversation with Paul Roche, Director of Parks & Rec regarding the possible use of some of the Schlumberger property for playing fields. Playing fields take a lot of space. Parks & Rec is suggesting the development of converting the playing fields near the skating rink with artificial turf.. In the long run, artificial turf is more economical. P. Roche suggested softball fields and an outdoor stage for the Schlumberger property plus adequate parking.

D. Larson also said that R. Marconi has stated how the current builders are interested in building more than the current 54 units – this is just something to “keep in mind”.

M. Miller reported on the progress of the possible Sendak Museum. The committee working on this project has talked with MOMA as well as reaching out to other museums. One thought is to sponsor creative activities for kids. A lot of money would need to be raised to convert the present Philip Johnson Building to a museum, but the first step is a “possibility study”.

Feedback from the October 7 meeting with the BOS – A. Bodner pointed out how the Schlumberger property still needs the “all-clear” contamination

approval from the DEP. There is water with oil in it. Nothing can be done with that portion of the property until this problem is solved and approved by the State. J. Zawacki asked if we should ask the public at the charrette if they want to commit to something that may be as much as five to seven years ahead.

B. Manners at the BOS Meeting indicated her preference to see multiple uses of the property.

A. Bodner would like to see the results from the charrette. He asked if the committee is just going to pick the most popular suggestion. The answer is that the survey is the starting point of developing recommendations that will use this input as well as others. E. Tyrrell stated how the committee was formed to come up with ideas and that is what the committee is doing.

M. Kozlark wondered whether the results may be skewed one way if the committee just goes with the feedback from one or two organizations. D. Larson stated that all organizations on the Town website were contacted and a special analysis of the survey results was conducted by M&M to assure accuracy of the survey. From that analysis, all age groups preferred cultural and open space ideas as did all regions of the town. In addition, in the first two days of the survey, more than 300 responses were obtained, mostly driven by Facebook and Twitter that showed similar preferences. Finally, the third day, in which 350+ responses were obtained, was driven mostly by organization contact, and these responses again showed that the preferences were for open and civic uses. The survey was set up to ensure that each IP address can submit only one response. It was felt that the BOS members were satisfied with how the survey was administered.

M. Kozark attended the September 28 Schlumberger Citizen's Committee meeting and commented on the excellent make-up of the committee. She also said that S. Zemo was very complimentary about the Citizens Committee's presentation to the BOS.

#### Logistics –

Logistics were confirmed as follows:

Some Committee members will meet at the Rec Center at 5:00 to set up tables, chairs, etc.

E. Burns will provide nametags for Schlumberger Committee people.

Ellen also has tickets for the raffle – each individual will get one raffle ticket when they come in. She also has the raffle prizes.

J. Zawacki has a 100 cup coffee urn which will be filled with coffee and kept warm. She has 150 paper hot cups and two smaller containers that one presses for either hot water for tea or an additional coffee location. J. Zawacki is making a variety of cookies. D. Larson's wife will make sugar cookies. J. Zawacki will email a list of "goodies", drinks and paper goods to D. Larson. She will have an ice cooler filled with the small

water bottles. Members of the Committee will help Joan bring in all her equipment and “goodies”.

E. Burns will do an update advertising the Charrette on Facebook.

Review of Minutes from September 21 and September 28 meetings –

**E. Tyrrell moved and A. Behymer seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the September 21, 2014, Schlumberger Citizen’s Committee Meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**E. Tyrrell moved and D. Daughters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the September 28, 2014, Schlumberger Citizen’s Committee Meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Adjournment

The next meeting for the Schlumberger Citizen’s Committee is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26. At that time, M&M will report back on the info they received from the charrette. Also under discussion will be plans for the second survey.

**E. Tyrrell moved and D. Daughters seconded a motion to adjourn the Schlumberger Citizen’s Committee meeting at 9:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson