



Special Community Update Gathering
Slice of Pizza, 465 Williams St., New London, CT
November 14, 2016 6:00 PM

Present: Cathi Strother, Jerry Sinnamon, Robert Lee, Peter Williams, Eleni Vourtsis, Brian Kent, Art Costa, Andrew Lopez, Sybil Tetteh, Bethany Donatello, Paul Reid, Erica Richardson, Ronna Stuller, Anthony Nolan, Efrain Dominguez, Jr., Dylan Wardwell, Tim Hanser, Jason Simpson, Katelin Teel, Edward Lemoine.

1. Brian Kent, of Kent + Frost Landscape Architects, Mystic, discussed design and direction of the Recreational (pedestrian and bicycle) Trails Grant proposal planned to connect Connecticut College/Lyman Allyn Museum with Hodges Square, part of a master plan to reconnect New London's North End with Downtown, bringing more economic power to Hodges Square, an urban village. Using map boards, he indicated the path's route, along the easterly side of Connecticut College and Lyman Allyn Museum grounds, merging onto Briggs, then Williams Streets, and continuing into Hodges Square. The plan includes use of existing sidewalks and night lighting. The CT DOT and the City of New London are interested to work on this project, upgrading Williams Street, in collaboration with Connecticut College, Lyman Allyn Museum, SEC COG and Hodges Square Village Association. Q&A followed, including discussion about the Route 32 overpass enhancements.
2. City of New London's City Planner, Sybil Tetteh, presented the collaborative effort with CT DOT, Lyman Allyn, Connecticut College and HSVA to upgrade the infrastructure for a bicycle and walking trail. There was discussion about the Big Jump (\$250K) and TAP (\$600K with 20% match) Grants, and that the contiguous Town of Waterford will also partner in the plan. The TAP grant will not cover all work; where the width of the road is not conforming with bicycle path regulations, it is possible to create a "shared road" by painting bicycle path icons on the pavement. Q&A followed, including discussion of future plans, such as continuing the pedestrian and bicycle trail up Williams Street into Quaker Hill, and Connecticut College plans for a new pedestrian bridge to cross Route 32, further south of the existing pedestrian bridge.
3. Further remarks included: reminding of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Grant that helps homeowners restore their historic buildings with a minimum \$15K investment; importance of having a strong community organization in place to support/work with a master plan for improvement; that the Kent + Frost plan creates an important tributary into the mainstream flow in and out of downtown New London; invite the Department of Public Works to the next Association meeting to discuss the state of roads and sidewalks in Hodges Square Village; engagement of residents critical to make all these plans happen; thanks to City Council and Planning members who attended and spoke at this meeting.
4. **Next regular HSVA meeting is on December 12, 2016, 5:30PM, at the Sun Turtle. All welcome.**

R.S.

Tina DuBosque, Admin. TVSC