

**CITY OF NORWALK
THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Doug Hempstead, Tom Livingston, Barbara Smyth, Eloise Melendez (7:02 p.m.); George Tsiranides (7:04 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Community Development Planner; Timothy Sheehan (7:03 p.m.)

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Kydes opened the public hearing on the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for 2019 at 7:00 p.m. There was no one from the public that wished to speak to the Committee about the Tax Credit Act. Mr. Kydes closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to address the Committee at this time.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL.

Mr. Kydes called the roll. A quorum was present.

ADMINISTRATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of May 2, 2019.

Ms. Melendez joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2019.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, line 4: please change the following from”

“and they unusually approved everyone.”

to: “and they usually approved everyone.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2019 AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (HEMPSTEAD, LIVINGSTON, AND SMYTH) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MELENDEZ).**

Mr. Sheehan joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX

1. Advance the recommended applications to the Common Council for approval of their inclusion in the 2019 NAA Tax Credit Program.

Ms. Church gave a brief overview of the program. She said that the program is run by the State and provides assistance to non-profit organizations by providing leverage for additional donations for specific projects the organization may be proposing or have underway. The application is sent to the State and the State approved the amount of the tax credits. Once that is done, the non-profit is responsible for selling the tax credits to others who may want to either donate or invest in the project. The credit purchaser receives a tax break in return. Ms. Church noted that the Norwalk River Valley Trail had used this program last year and done well with leveraging the tax credits.

Mr. Tsiranides joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Livingston asked if this was a good source for donations. Ms. Church said that it did not appear to be since there are a number of organizations that have found it challenging to sell the tax credits once they have been issued. The larger organizations are already well versed and well known in the community, so they partner with other major corporations like Eversource. Mr. Sheehan pointed out that they bring equity to the project. A discussion followed about the details of the program.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

Mr. Kydes said that Mr. Sheehan will be greatly missed since he is leaving after 17 years. Mr. Sheehan said that he would be around and felt Norwalk was his second home.

Mr. Hempstead said that Mr. Sheehan had given the City a new direction when he arrived and that he would be missed. He said that Mr. Sheehan lived in Norwalk, worked in Norwalk and had become part of Norwalk.

Mr. Livingston thanked Mr. Sheehan and said that Mr. Sheehan was helpful to him and very generous with his time.

Mr. Sheehan said that he felt that all of the Council Members were friends.

Ms. Smyth also said that she felt she was just getting to know Mr. Sheehan and wished him the best.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services