

~ AD HOC REPORT ~  
*Purchase of Property 357 Main Street*  
*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

(20)

Chairman Irving Fox called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Christopher Arconti and Fred Visconti, and Ex Officio Member Paul Rotello. Also present were Mayor Mark Boughton, Bob Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Dan Garrick, Assistant Finance Director; and members of the public.

Chairman Fox introduced everyone present at the meeting and briefly explained the purpose of the meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee was formed to discuss a purchase of land at 357 Main Street which was submitted to the Committee.

Mayor Boughton noted the property is adjacent and to the right of the Police Station. Uses for the small, approximately 6,000 square foot, property would be somewhat limited. Highest and best use may be to remove the current house and create a pocket park with a memorial to police and fire personnel, a small assembly area, and a water feature. A reasonable price has been determined and funds are available in the Open Space/ Recreation Acquisition Fund. He commented regarding the need for urban open space and noted it would also be a nice gateway to Main Street. Mayor Boughton commented that it may be beneficial to square off the lot and there are talks regarding the triangular shaped property fronting the street which abuts subject property.

Mayor Boughton responded to Councilman Visconti noting the price of \$125,000 has been agreed to and if Council discusses and approves in approximately October, including input from the public, it could be built in the spring and dedicated by August. In response to Councilman Arconti's inquiry, Mayor Boughton suggested the cost for creating a small pocket park could be approximately \$150,000. He also responded to Councilman Fox that there are ways to set up the park allowing police full view. Councilmember Rotello expressed support for the project and the price.

Councilman Fox inquired regarding grants. Mr. Yamin responded to Councilman Fox that the Open Space Fund is a bond money. He also requested any motion include authority to sign a contract. Mayor Boughton noted they will look into grants. Councilman Visconti expressed support for the memorial.

*A motion was made by Councilman Arconti, and seconded by Councilman Visconti, to authorize the Mayor and Corporation Counsel to sign a contract for a purchase price of \$125,000. Motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Councilman Visconti, and seconded by Councilman Arconti, that the Ad Hoc Committee be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously at 7:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Irving Fox, Chairman

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Christopher Arconti

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Fred Visconti