



**City of Danbury
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810**

Danbury Main Street Partnership

Meeting Minutes - Revised

Thursday, April 3, 2014 – 4pm

Conference Room 3C

Next regularly scheduled meeting: May 1, 2014

Members Present: Mike Kallas, Jim Maloney, Andrea Gartner, Marie O'Neill, Warren Levy, Jack Deering, Paul Reis

Members Absent: Mayor Boughton, Steve Bull

Staff/Guests Present: Dennis Elpern – Planning and Zoning Director, Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director, Roger Palanzo - Mayor's Office

The meeting was called to order by Mike Kallas at 4:05pm.

Approval of minutes from March 6, 2014 meeting. Motioned to accept by Marie O'Neill; Seconded by Warren Levy. Minutes unanimously approved.

Public Comments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

MSP Next Steps

There was open discussion regarding where the Partnership should go from here.

- Potential areas for discussion: Business Development, New Main Street, Danbury Hackerspace, WCSU/NVCC.
- Jack Deering wants a subcommittee to develop a report of city and regional amenities that would attract business investments downtown.
- Warren Levy noted that when discussing downtown development, typically a multi-pronged approach (dinner, areas, recreation, theater, and the arts) is taken. Instead, a

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proactive approach toward developing the area is required, especially with the Greystar project. It involves creating a plan and then championing the plan.

- Mike Kaltschnee talked about a potential technology incubator as the next following the Danbury Hackerspace. Possible locations include the Straus building or the Meeker building.
- Jim Maloney provided more detail following his presentation at the last meeting on a possible "New Main Street" somewhere in the area between I 84 Exit 5 and Rogers Park. If the idea were to be pursued, the essential first step would be to commission a professional comprehensive economic development analysis of the entire highway-park area. The partnership discussed the process, potential cost, likelihood of funding and logistics for the analysis and the entire project. Bruce Tuomala will discuss with the Mayor.

Mayor's Update

- Danbury Hackerspace ribbon cutting in May.
- Mad Hackers event scheduled June 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm. Motion by Jack Deering. Second by Marie O'Neill. Unanimous approval.