

Report of Meeting

Date and Time: May 28, 2013 @ 6:30 pm
Location: Robert Early Auditorium, 45 South Main St, Wallingford, CT
Subject: Wallingford Public Meeting
Attendees: See attached Sign-in list of commenters

Wallingford Town Council members

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman
Vincent Cervoni, Vice Chairman
Nick Economopoulos
Craig C. Fishbein
Thomas Laffin
John LeTourneau
Rosemary Rascati
John Sullivan
Jason Zandri

Attending for CTDOT and PMT:

John Bernick, CTDOT
Rich Jankovich, CTDOT
Eric Bergeron, CTDOT
Steve Deegan, CTDOT
David Tudryn, Michael Baker Jr.
Tony Sardilli, Michael Baker Jr.
Bob Braren, Michael Baker Jr.
Rob Yirigian, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Joanne Frascella, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Patrick O'Mara, STV

CTDOT Project Manager John Bernick presented an update on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program and the design for the Wallingford Station at the Wallingford Town Council Meeting. Mr. Bernick provided an overview of the Program goals and long term vision, the status of the design, and the schedule and phasing of improvements leading to the launching of the new service in 2016. Mr. Bernick noted that relocation of the station is necessary to accommodate longer station platforms and to avoid traffic disruptions in the station area. He pointed out that alternate sites for the station were studied in the Environmental Assessment phase of the NHHS Rail Program, and the North Colony Street site was selected as the preferred location, as decided by vote of the Wallingford Town Council. David Tudryn presented site plans for the proposed site improvements and station. The presentation highlighted the station's high-level platforms, canopy/shelter, pedestrian overpass and parking. Also noted were the station's new visual messaging, security and automated ticketing features.

Steve Deegan described the property impacts and procedures CTDOT follows to compensate impacted property owners and provide relocation assistance. He noted that the property impacts include one total acquisition of a commercial property and several partial acquisitions of abutting properties along North Colony Street. Tony Sardilli presented renderings of the station design illustrating views of North Cherry Street, the platforms, and the pedestrian overpass.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, many comments from the Town Council and the general public expressed favorable views on the station building design. However, several Town Council members and residents were concerned about the relocation of the station to the North Colony Street site. In response to these comments, Mr. Bernick noted that the Town Council had passed a resolution in June of 2012 supporting the selection of the North Colony Street site, and the Federal Railroad Administration agreed with the Town's recommendation. Asked whether the decision was final, Mr. Bernick replied that the general layout was set but that dimensions could be adjusted. Other attendees asked about parking capacity and security at the station. Several comments addressed increased bus and vehicular traffic on Parker Street. There was concern with the narrow turning radius and sight lines, particularly the possibility of headlights from vehicles turning on Parker Street shining into nearby houses. John Bernick responded that CTDOT will assess the need for traffic improvements at this location. Mr. Bernick offered to meet with residents and to walk the site to discuss the design and address concerns.