

TOWN OF GREENWICH  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
NATHANIEL WITHERELL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Gisborne Conference Room, Town Hall

Monday, October 23, 2017

Committee: Arthur D. Norton; Elizabeth K. Krumeich, Jill Oberlander; Nancy Weissler

Others: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Andy Duus, RTM Budget Overview Committee; Rommel Nobay, RTM Health and Human Services Committee; Danyal Ozizmir, RTM Budget Overview Committee

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 A.M.

**1. Approval of BET Nathaniel Witherell Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2017**

Consideration of minutes from the October 10, 2017 meeting was postponed until the next scheduled meeting.

**2. Discussion of Nathaniel Witherell Business, Financial Models**

Mr. Norton thanked the members of the Committee for their dedication to the discovery process and for working collegially for the past 19 months.

Mr. Norton stated that The Nathaniel Witherell is an example of the law of unintended consequences of gifts to the Town and that Greenwich had struggled for decades with the question of The Nathaniel Witherell. It is his studied conclusion that TNW needs to change its business model and to be operated as a business. He noted that in deciding upon future tactics the Town will need to defer to the grantors' wishes, unless the Town obtains a release of these obligations from the grantors' heirs.

**3. Preliminary Outline and Discussion of Final Report**

Ms. Weissler reported that Allen Brown, Executive Director of TNW, commented that the draft of the financial review section placed too great of an emphasis on the HDG Long Range Plan. Mr. Brown forwarded the updated long-term capital plan and TNW Board Chair Larry Simon has not yet provided comments on the section.

Ms. Oberlander suggested that the final report include a recommendation that the Town pursue a release of obligations from the grantors' heirs and that the Town retain outside counsel to implement this expeditiously.

The Committee discussed the draft section on existing structure and regulations. Ms. Weissler referenced Committee discussions on land use parameters and the Friends of Nathaniel Witherell and suggested the report include both topics. The Committee also agreed to research the history of the Bruce Museum governance and to include changes in

at-home care with the Money Follows the Person program talked about by Lori Contadino, Executive Director, Commission on Aging.

The Committee discussed the differences between TNW and Smith House, a municipally-owned nursing home in Stamford that was recently turned over to a private manager.

In response to a question from Andy Duus about enforcing management changes, Mr. Norton stated that the Committee can make recommendations but that any real change would require broader community support and possibly charter change.

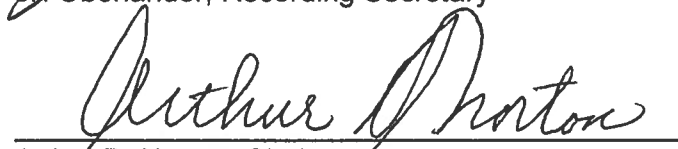
#### **4. Items for Future Committee Meetings**

The next scheduled meeting is November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 A.M. in the Gisborne room. The Committee also set a meeting for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M.

#### **5. Adjournment**

On a motion duly made by Ms. Weissler and seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 A.M.

  
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Jill Oberlander, Recording Secretary

  
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Arthur D. Norton, Chairman