**HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2017

The Sun Turtle, Hodges Square, New London, CT

Present: Forrest Sklar, Robert Lee, Cathi Strother, Priscilla Peabody, Sybil Tetteh, City Planner, City of New London, also Jim Fakourey.

Meeting started at 5:28pm

1) Minutes from the March 13th meeting were approved; motion by Fforrest, seconded by Cathi.

2) No bank account balance provided.

3A) Under 95 (Sybil Tetteh)

No new developments due State budget crisis.

TAP grant: Grant approved; Connecticut College providing half of the matching grant funding; next step is the RFQ process.

LOTCIP grant: 1st round of DOT comments on redesign of Williams St. through Hodges Sq. returned; median divider space has been redistributed to sidewalk area, similar to Niantic’s Main Street; new sidewalk enlargement design must be submitted; 3000 cars/day traffic indicates no closure of exit 84E; DOT has to get in touch with SCOG and there are many projects ahead of this one.

HUD: $1.3million rehousing/rehabilitation grant is very competitive; City of New London applied for grant Aug 28, 2017, in conjunction with the Housing Authority; includes moving people out of Crystal Ave. hi-rise apartments into other homes that are in the HUD program. HUD housing exists in Hodges Square for this re-housing. Hodges Square is part of the planning process.

Thames River Innovation/SPARK: Groton and New London will apply for grant with $900K match; redevelopment project includes focusing on Bailey Circle as a destination for cyclists; next steps include creating a budget, signing a contract with the State of CT, report on outcome of project; hire a consultant to assess real estate values on both sides of the river.

3B) Hodges Square Landscaping:

Discussion included: increase number of pavers, planters and bushes; talk with Art Costa about going forward; paint planters. Mile sculptures have been vandalized, but are restored. Forrest will look into the vandalizing.

3C) Moving the bench has helped reduce loitering; more police visible; there is attention by the City to blighted areas.

Forrest will send thank-you to Chief and to Jeanne Milstein in appreciation of efforts to address stated needs.

7­­­­­) Jim offered volunteers from Garden Court to help with a marketing telethon. Discussion about updates a “Welcome Wagon” package. Priscilla suggested creating a magnetic business card with HSVA logo and meeting dates.

8B) HSVA representative to Planning & Zoning, City Council meetings: City Council meetings are monthly on alternative Mondays; Meetings information is posted in The Day on Sundays; Planning and Zoning meet once a month; watch Atlantic Broad Band ch25 Opinion and Talks live broadcast.

Next meeting October 9 at Old Town Mill – contact Judi Cox.

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting; Forrest seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

R.S. Tina DuBosque