College Council on Community Policy

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2015

Members Present: Margaret Bruzelius, Beth Bone, Ibtissam Bouachrine, Julia Collins, Nathan Derr, Ashavan Doyon, Laurie Fenlason, Scott Graham, Michael Ireland, Jesse Kline, Donna Lisker, Sam Masinter, Martha Miller, Christen Mucher, Halley Ofner, Gina Louise Sciarra, Susan Stratton Sayre, Barbara Williams

Guests Present: Mayor David Narkewicz, Gary Hartwell, Ryan O’Donell

The meeting began at 12:00. Margaret Bruzelius opened the meeting with help from Sam Masinter who was standing in for Danielle Ramdath who was not able to participate in the meeting.

After introductions, a brief description of the remaining spring meetings was made: March 6: Updates from Subcommittees: Smoking and Pet Policy; Guest speakers: Najwa Alsheikh, Dwight Hamilton
April 3: Guest speaker: Mary MacInnes, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority.

Mayor Narkewicz spoke for 10 minutes about his priorities, the challenges facing Northampton, and positive accomplishments. Challenges include finances in an environment where towns have seen a decline in state aid over the past 10 years. Northampton voters did approve a proposition 2.5 override which has been helpful for the town. Northampton has also received a number of commendations for its work on sustainability. Mayor Narkewicz took questions from the Committee and spent some time on addressing the potential impact of the MGM Casino that is expected to be built in Springfield.

The second half of the meeting involved an informal presentation by Scott Graham and Gary Hartwell on the Elm Street changes that were made in 2010 in an effort to provide better pedestrian safety. Ryan O’Donell, Ward 3 Northampton City Councilor, also spoke to the issue of pedestrian safety. As a member of the Transportation and Parking Commission he is working on a comprehensive review of the 319 crosswalks in Northampton in an effort to improve the safety of pedestrians. The group took questions from the Committee. Several specific crosswalks in close proximity to Smith were discussed.

The meeting ended at 1:00

Next meeting March 6, 2015

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Ireland