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Windsor Locks officials to present Main Street study

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WINDSOR LOCKS – Town officials will present plans for polishing up the floundering Main Street to residents tonight.

The meeting, which will be at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, will outline the physical improvements and business development opportunities needed for the street, First Selectman Steven Wawruck said.

Wawruck said a study, which was funded by a \$5,000 state grant and \$40,000 from the town, was conducted by consulting teams Amadon & Associates, Ferrero Hixon Associates, and Fuss & O'Neill.

The study outlines how the town plans to go forward in the project, which may include tree planting, shifting traffic patterns, and on-street parking, Wawruck said.

"The goal is to bring Main Street back to its economic vibrancy that it had 40 years ago," he said. "Somewhere along the way we fell short of what our original goals were, and we need to get Main Street back to where it was before."

Wawruck added that the lack of on-street parking hinders businesses from attracting people to Main Street. One recommendation in the study, he said, would be the relocation of the train station to the center of town.

Barbara Schley, co-founder of the Windsor Preservation Association, which wants to purchase the Historic Windsor Locks Train Station from Amtrak, praised the study and agreed that Main Street needs a facelift —starting with the train station.

"I have always firmly felt that getting the historic train station will really be the catalyst in restoring Main Street to what it was," she said.

Improvements to the Montgomery building, Windsor Locks Commons, and street enhancements for Routes 140 and 159 are also recommended in the study, Wawruck said.