

Fire Facility Site Selection Committee
Minutes of September 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office. Present were committee members PJ Ryan, Chris Griggs, Diane Cushman, Liz Herrmann, Gerry Slager, Brett LaRose, Kevin LaRose, Shawn Oxford. Also present was Administrative Assistant Jen Stetson, Peter Morrow Meyer, Porter Knight, Eve Thompson, Naomi Drummond, Randall Freeman, Neale Schuman, and Joann Etko with NEAT TV.

Kevin LaRose motioned to approve meeting minutes from the September 3, 2013 meeting, Gerry Slager seconded. Liz Herrmann made a correction. Kevin LaRose motioned to approve minutes as amended, Gerry Slager seconded, all were in favor (8-0). So voted.

Brett LaRose updated the committee regarding the Hanson/Tanych property. The Hanson's had written a letter to Brett asking to be removed from the list. Brett had already spoken to the Tanych's to tell them that their site had been removed from the list. Kevin LaRose updated the group regarding the GIS study and the help they are receiving from Middlebury College.

The committee began working through the list of pro's and con's. Shawn Oxford suggested that some items on the list were a bigger pro or a bigger con than others listed, which is what the committee needed to evaluate tonight.

Site #23, Post Office, Parsons & Sons Lumber, West Street:

Gerry Slager discussed the availability as a con to the site. When he talked with the landowner they were willing to stay on the list, but they also had a lease with the Post Office. Gerry Slager said he would get in contact with the landowner again and ask about availability. Chris Griggs mentioned that this site was the single most expensive site on the list for such a small parcel. Porter Knight also mentioned affecting the current infrastructure of the town.

Site #13, Bouvier Property , 128 & 130 North Street:

Diane Cushman stated that they don't necessarily need to buy both lots. The lot with the house on it was 1.4 acres which was plenty of room. Chris Griggs stated that he thought the GIS study would help reveal more information about this property. Brett LaRose suggested that they contact the family regarding the interest in the single lot versus both of the lots to see the family wanted to remain on the list. Shawn Oxford discussed the different costs to be considering when evaluating each site. Gerry Slager said he would speak with Lance Perlee in the Water Department, regarding the water line to this property.

Site #33, Bristol Fire Station with Bilson Property & Vince Property, North Street:

Diane Cushman mentioned the lot size is small. Brett wanted the group to consider the parking that could fit for the site, as well as considering the off street parking that is available for the site. The committee discussed the current off street parking that was available near the Fire Station. Diane Cushman noticed that purchasing this was the most expensive site to purchase due to having the

purchase both the Vince and Bilson properties. Kevin asked how the committee should be thinking about the old Fire Station and whether this should be considered in a cost for the committee when considering other sites. The committee discussed the different options regarding the costs associated with the Fire Station that is currently there.

Site #18, Dike Property, corner of North Street & Fitch Avenue:

The committee discussed the pro of having the site close to Bristol Elementary School, but also the con because of traffic that is drawn to that part of Town two times a day along with pedestrian traffic. The committee continued to discuss the different con's listed for the site.

Site #19, Bristol Fire Station with Bilson Property, North Street:

The committee discussed the con of the lot size for the two sites combined. They also discussed the difficulty of the access for the responders, because due to the vegetation buffer zone they wouldn't be able to have access on Garfield Street. The committee decided this site would need further review by the Zoning Administrator to answer some questions regarding the buffer zone and a building being grandfathered in.

Site #4, Shepard Property along with Recreation Club Property, West Street Frontage:

The committee discussed different options for this site, and proposals that they could recommend. Chris Griggs suggested that they create a proposal to bring to the Recreation Club to have a discussion with them regarding this site. Porter Knight wanted the committee to consider what they actually needed for a lot size, and they potentially wouldn't have to re-locate the Skate Park when the Shepard property is included. Shawn Oxford said he would ask to be put on the agenda of the Bristol Recreation Club for the end of this month.

Site #22, Nelson Property, West Street Frontage:

The committee tabled this discussion again as they had no new information on the site.

Site #3, Recreation Club, West Street Frontage:

The committee discussed many of the same items as they did with the Recreation Club in combination with the Shepard property. Liz Herrmann mentioned the potential flexibility this site has in determining lot size.

Shawn updated the committee about their meeting with the Selectboard on Monday September 9, 2013. Brett LaRose and Shawn Oxford met with the Selectboard about both the Recreation Club/Riding Rink property, and the Nelson property. Porter Knight also updated the group regarding the public hearing that took place regarding the planning grant.

The committee went through the current list of sites to evaluate after further discussion of pro's and con's whether sites should remain on the list. The committee agreed to remove site #18 Dike property from the list due to the large number of con's for the site. Chris motioned to remove the site from further consideration by the committee. Gerry Slager seconded, all were in favor (8-0), so voted.

Diane Cushman moved to remove site #23 the Post Office from further consideration by the committee. Chris Griggs seconded, all were in favore (8-0), so voted.

Shawn Oxford will talk with the Recreation Club to get on the agenda for the end of the month. Liz Hermmann was going to make an appointment with Bill Bryant regarding zoning for the remaining sites. Gerry Slager said he would write a letter to the owners of the Post Office telling them that they were no longer being considered as a site. Brett LaRose asked for permission to speak to the Bouvier Family regarding the discussion of their site. Kevin LaRose and Gerry Slager would contact the person from Middlebury College about GIS study. Shawn Oxford and Alan Huizenga would contact Nancy Dike regarding the removal of her property from the list.

Porter Knight suggested having a public meeting once the list is narrowed giving them the opportunity to review the work done before bringing the suggestion to the Selectboard. Shawn Oxford would reach out the Chico Martin, the Chair of the Planning Commission and invite him to the next meeting to discuss the remaining sites in connection with the Town Plan.

Chris Griggs moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm, Kevin LaRose seconded. All were in favor, so voted (8-0).