

Fire Facility Site Selection Committee  
Minutes of November 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office. Present were committee members PJ Ryan, Liz Herrmann, Brett LaRose, Kevin LaRose, and Shawn Oxford. Also present was Administrative Assistant Jen Stetson, and Peter Morrow Meyer.

Brett LaRose motioned to approve meeting minutes from October 28, 2013. Jen Stetson had two amendments. PJ Ryan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Liz Herrmann seconded, all were in favor, so voted (5-0).

Shawn Oxford had been emailing with Wendy Livingston regarding her InStiches property located on West Street. She is would be interested in having her property considered, but the asking price would be around \$375,000. He wanted to bring this up amongst the group, but felt that they couldn't accomplish what they wanted to there. PJ Ryan expressed that it is too late in the game to consider a new piece of property. Kevin LaRose reminded the committee that there were two sites that were talked about later that the group opted not to consider. The committee discussed the lot. Liz Herrmann volunteered to research the site more in depth to see what the lot looks like. Kevin LaRose didn't want to invest more time into another site in all fairness to the work they had already completed.

Kevin LaRose spoke with Bill Hegman, the professor from Middlebury College, asking if the committee was still interested in completing a GIS study, as there was a student that is interested in doing it. Kevin LaRose suggested this was still a good idea since the West Street property is .75 miles from the current Fire Station. Brett LaRose thought this was a good idea because the Fire Department had to update their ISO ratings, and was worthwhile, while it was also a location that could make a significant impact on Homeowners Insurance. Kevin LaRose would catch up with Gerry Slager regarding the GIS mapping and make an appointment with Bill Hegman.

Shawn Oxford will follow up with Planning Commission as to what time the Site Selection Committee is on the agenda for at their meeting Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The committee discussed the PowerPoint that Jen Stetson had put together in hopes of using this document to present to the Planning Commission, and for future use with Public Meetings.

The first slide was the Recreation Club property. Brett LaRose asked if the committee thought it was important to show this slide in the event they could prove that just this site would work if the Shepard's did decide to remove their property from being considered. Peter Meyer suggested using the Shepard and Recreation Club site and putting a dashed line where those properties meet proving they could do both. The committee discussed the rankings that were listed on each slide. The committee agreed to remove the rankings from each slide as these were their top two sites. The committee also agreed that they wanted to remove the Recreation Club site by itself, but use the combination of the Recreation Club and the Shepard property adding a line between the properties.

Shawn Oxford also thought a mission statement should be added as a preface slide to these sites reminding the Planning Commission what the committee's job was. Kevin LaRose thought the pro's and con's on each slide should be omitted from each slide as this isn't important information for the Planning Commission to be considering.

Peter Meyer suggested adding a map of the village with the sites being considered so people could get an idea of their location in the village. He also suggested just outlining the site or coding what all of the colors meant to eliminate confusion.

The following is what the committee decided would be the order of the slides in the PowerPoint:

Slide 1: Title and committee members

Slide 2: Mission Statement

Slide 3: Overall site map

Slide 4: Criteria

Slide 5 & 6: Individual Sites without pros and cons, with zoning key to reference what is already on the map. Clarify the grand list value on Shepard property and Recreation Club. For the Fire Department, Vince and Bilson site combine the acreage, the grand list value, add property lines. Liz would send updated sites with some minor changes in size and colors for the PowerPoint presentation.

Slide 7: Our question to you is do these sites comply to the Town Plan? Is there one that is more favorable than the other?

The committee discussed keeping the pros and cons on each slide. Peter Meyer suggested they list why they picked the site versus having pro's and con's.

Neale Schuman is concerned with the traffic flow for Recreation Club and Shepard site. He has spoken with several neighbors and feels it is dangerous due to the volume of traffic. He suggested the committee get help from the state police regarding the traffic flow in this area. Kevin LaRose agreed with Neale, and perhaps in the future a study could be completed. Brett LaRose discussed that the traffic issue can be addressed in different ways.

Kevin LaRose motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20, Shawn Oxford seconded, all were in favor, so voted (5-0).