

Fire Facility Site Selection Committee
Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Fire Station. The following members were present for the meeting, Brett LaRose, PJ Ryan, Kevin LaRose, Chris Griggs, Diane Cushman, Gerry Slager, Liz Herrmann, and Shawn Oxford. Also present was Administrative Assistant Jen Stetson, Mary Arbuckle with NEAT TV, Naomi Drummond, Randall Freeman, Eve Thompson, Porter Knight, Peter Morrow, Neale Schuman.

Chris Griggs move to approve meeting minutes from March 10, 2014. Seconded by Shawn Oxford, all were in favor, so voted.

Gerry Slager had further information about the homes that would have been affected in Bristol by insurance premiums in moving the fire station. A list was created of the addresses that could be affected by this move. PJ Ryan was concerned about the number of houses as it seems that there should be more based on his knowledge of on Meehan Road. Chris Griggs seemed to think that neighboring fire departments are within 5 miles so insurance premiums may not change for those homeowners. Kevin LaRose said he would follow up with the student who completed the GIS project for them to clarify if that was taken into consideration when the mapping was completed and the list compiled.

Shawn Oxford wanted to acknowledge that they do take public comment throughout the meeting if the comment pertains to the topic the committee is discussing.

Brett LaRose addressed the committee regarding the status that they were at and created a timeline, and felt that the committee had completed their goals and objectives what they were asked to do. Diane Cushman asked what happened if they presented the West Street site to the Selectboard and the negotiations didn't work out. The committee discussed what could happen. Shawn Oxford thought that the committee should slow down in terms of answering questions from the knowledge they got from the Selectboard at the previous meeting. If the committee can answer some of these questions then he feels they should move forward. Brett LaRose proposed to the committee that they meet with the Selectboard prior to having a public meeting so they could determine if the Selectboard if was in agreement with the work they had done and is willing to support their idea.

Liz Herrmann presented her mapping project done with the West Street property.

Shawn Oxford revisited the question about the status of where the committee is at in making their decision. The committee agreed to ask to be on the April 21st Selectboard agenda, meeting April 14th at the Bristol Fire Station to prepare their presentation.

Neale Schuman asked what the future was for the current building. Brett LaRose told him that that question was already posed to the Selectboard and they would remind them again when they meet with them.

Randall Freeman asked if the current site was out of the question. Brett LaRose said the site discussed tonight was the top site. Randall Freeman asked about the Fire Departments feelings about potentially moving their location. PJ Ryan discussed that a finalized location hadn't be discussed and the support of the entire department would be crucial.

Porter Knight suggested that they do their first presentation to just the Fire Department so they could ask questions and have the committee be able to respond.

Naomi Drummond asked if they are limited in the properties they can acquire, and have they decided that they can't acquire enough properties to make it fit at the current location. Brett LaRose addressed several factors that didn't allow the department to meet their needs at the current location.

Shawn Oxford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30, Gerry Slager seconded, all were in favor, so voted.