

Fire Facility Site Selection Committee
Minutes of December 23, 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, Alan Huizenga, Chris Griggs, Diane Cushman, Gerry Slager and Shawn Oxford. Also present was Administrative Assistant Jen Stetson, and Neale Schuman.

Shawn Oxford moved to approve the minutes from November 11, 2013. PJ seconded, all were in favor, so voted.

Gerry Slager met with Bill and Nathan the professor and college student that will be taking on the GIS mapping. On January 8th he will meet with them again to show him the sites and discuss the information the committee is looking to obtain. Gerry Slager and Kevin LaRose suggested that they use the Recreation Club site, the Fire Station, and the Bouvier site just to have a third comparison to have a site location on the North side of Town. Gerry Slager asked if they should separate this out keep the comparison between the remaining two sites and the Bouvier property on its own to eliminate public confusion if this is possible. The committee agreed to keep it simple and compare insurance changes and response times.

On November 19th Liz Herrmann, Alan Huizenga and Brett LaRose presented their slideshow to the Planning Commission, which they thought went well. Liz Herrmann thought the presentation was a good dry run, and clearly showed the issue of the Hub and Skate Park. The concern was where these would go assuming this was the chosen site for the new facility. The committee agreed that this was a question that the Selectboard would have to answer, as they are searching for the best site for the facility. The Planning Commission responded with a letter stating the voting outcome of the two sites presented. Shawn Oxford was under the assumption that they would have responded with passes and conforms and as a whole it conforms or it doesn't versus a vote. Kevin LaRose was concerned with some of the members on the Planning Commission having a vested interest in other committees. Brett LaRose felt like the information provided wasn't what they were looking for and he would be interested in going back to the Planning Commission and asking for specific examples of where this does conform with the Town Plan and as well as does not conform to the Town Plan. The group discussed the letter the Planning Commission submitted to the committee.

Diane Cushman asked if the group should perhaps have a third property ready for the Selectboard if needed. Chris Griggs felt confident in the process they had done thus far and they should keep it limited to two sites. The committee discussed having the Planning Commission weigh in on a third site. The committee agreed that they all needed more information from the Planning Commission to review the two sites they are currently considering. Kevin LaRose motioned to go back to the Planning Commission with just the two sites and have them give more information from the town plan to help determine if they needed to remove a site from the list. Chris Griggs seconded. Liz suggested that they ask for an expedited timeline in regards to a third site if they needed the PC to review that site later. Kevin's original motioned was defeated (0-9). Kevin motioned to request more information from the Planning

Commission regarding the two sites they were originally presented with, making references to where it does and does not comply with the Town Plan, while also having an expedited timeline for a third site if they needed to review one later, Liz seconded, all were in favor 9-0.

Shawn would write to the Planning Commission requesting the additional information. Gerry Slager and Kevin LaRose would email the committee keeping them updated on the GIS project taking place.

Neale Schuman is still concerned with traffic on West Street. Neale was curious to see if the Nelson property would conform to the Town Plan. Brett discussed the uncertainty of the property. Neale thinks that someone from the committee should discuss a price with George Vince. Brett stated that the Selectboard would be the group to negotiate the price. Alan discussed the different things the Selectboard could offer to "sweeten" the deal.

The committee was unsure of the next meeting as they will wait for information from the Planning Commission. Chris Griggs motioned to adjourn at 8:30 PM, Liz Herrmann seconded, all were in favor.