

Bristol Fire Facility Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2015

Present: Bill Elwell, Brian Fox, Terry Farr, Dan Heath, Ed Hanson, Diane Cushman, Brett LaRose (on the phone), Kris Perlee, Jen Perlee, Amos Martin, Michelle Perlee

Co-Chair Bill Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Bill advised there would be a change in the Agenda to move the discussion regarding the building estimate as it has not yet been received. It will hopefully be available by Friday so the next meeting or two we can discuss and vet. Bill advised he would like the Committee to be able to present the estimate to the Selectboard by the June 8th meeting.

Motion made by Dan Heath to accept the meeting minutes of April 26, 2015, Brian seconded. All in favor, none opposed, Motion carried.

Discussion - Communications Strategy

- Discussion with Therese and the Selectboard to have the Committee stay on through the bond vote to help with public presentations with Bill and Liz being the spokespersons for the Committee
- Discussion regarding public gatherings (i.e. coffee and donuts to do a presentation maybe at the fire station so if people want to see what the current building looks like they can v doing it at Holley Hall).
- Bill advised that there are some community members offering to assist with the communication strategy. There is a community member, who wishes to remain anonymous, who is willing to lead the fund raising effort for the equipment and furnishing for the building. This is great because it shows community support.
- Pamphlet/Facebook page – Discuss what key points we want in there
 - For example the fire department for the last 2 years has had frozen pipes at the station so they have been without water for months and have had to make alternate arrangements to clean equipment and gear, etc.
 - Building determined unsafe to occupy as fire station
 - 26 out of 36 members are certified as Fire Fighter 1 and up.
 - Diane stated that what she is hearing is that there is no question of the firefighter's loyalty, dedication and training so she does not think we have to belabor that point. The public wants to know what we are building and how much will it cost.
 - Diane also advised that when they did the public forums for the site selection, they had 2 meeting and they were well attended.

- Bill spoke with Shawn Oxford and he indicated that this facility committee is in a totally different place than the site selection committee and thinks in a better position.
- Diane stated that it might be a good idea to put something on FPF – an explanation as to what the committee did, why, and how. Develop a narrative about what is in the building, why it is in there, etc. So we explain the process that the committee went through to get to where they are at the present. She said she read a piece about the Starksboro Town Shed and it was well written and after she got done reading it, she understood what that committee went through. That would be a good educational opportunity for the public.
- Bill suggested that everyone should send their thoughts in an e-mail and that could be disseminated to the person handling that part of the communication strategy
- We need to also indicate that it is not a “gym” but an exercise room. Make it clear that there will not be money in the bond to purchase any kind of equipment for the exercise room. Important to educate the public that this space is needed to keep the firefighters in good health (fact per Terry that 60% of firefighters die from heart attacks). Exercise and keeping in good health is part of their training. In addition, this room would be available to other Town employees.
- Think the biggest and most important issue will be getting the public to come out and vote. This is a really important issue.
- Get the facts and information about the bond vote and the fire facility to the public through the Addison Independent a couple times before the vote..

1897 STATION

Discussion: Selectboard would like the committee to come up with options. The plan would be to do an exit survey at the bond vote to find out what the community would like to do with the building and the options would be listed for the public to choose from. We would then take that information to create an Article at the next Town Meeting.

- ❖ Bill spoke with Kevin LaRose regarding the septic for that site. Kevin advised that there would be space for a septic for a 3 bedroom house but not a 4 bedroom house.
- ❖ Discussion regarding what has been heard by the public that it should not be Town owned – people don’t want to put money into it – if it is not good enough for the Fire Department, then it is not good enough for the Town and we should not soak money into it.
 - Kris mentioned that we should check with Eric regarding zoning because if the use is changed, then as it currently stands, the building is not in compliance with the setbacks. If you change the use, they would have to comply with the setbacks.

This is something the Selectboard will have to deal with and not something that this Committee needs to figure out.

- ❖ Not relocate or convert it – Engineers report does not indicate it is condemned; it states that it is not safe to be used for what it is being used for now. It limits the number of people that can be on the second floor.
- ❖ Renovate the building? Restoration?
- ❖ Create a building lot.
- ❖ Brett indicating that his opinion is the exterior of the building is in decent shape on the existing fire station; he also indicated that the 1972 building (the one out back) could be taken down (but the Town would have to do that, not the Department)

OPTIONS FOR 32 NORTH STREET

1. Sale with caveats (i.e. exterior must be restored to its original design)
2. Sell without any caveats (as a building lot to get it back onto the grand list, but would have to limit it to 3 bedroom if that is what type of septic can be put in)
3. Obtain grant monies (from a private source) to keep and refurbish the historical building, but would need to put it on a time frame
4. Dismantle the building and sell the wood and timber as reclamation
5. Town raise the building (and sell it) and keep the lot for future use.

Discussion: Do not believe that the Town needs any more buildings to maintain. Brian stated in the 3 years he has been on the Selectboard, there has been no discussion about needing another building.

Diane made a Motion to present the five options listed above to the Selectboard. Terry second. All in favor, none opposed, Motion carried.

Future Meeting dates:

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. either at the Fire House Annex or Howden Hall

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. either at the Fire House Annex or Howden Hall

Bill will talk with Therese to find out the availability of Howden Hall and will send an e-mail as to the location of the next meeting.

Additional discussion:

- Discussed the process with Tom Barden and Naylor and Breen reviewing the bid and Tom vetting it to make sure the numbers are in alignment.

- Purchasing the land from Stoney Hill Partnership (will not be doing a land swap as there were too many complications to handling it that way). In negotiations now with Stoney Hill to purchase.
- Discussion regarding the specs – Dan wanted to make sure that it was detailed with the kind of materials, energy efficiency items. Bill advised that they would be meeting with Matt Sharpe tomorrow to discuss that portion and have been in contact with Matt from Efficiency Vermont throughout the process.

At 8:05 Brian made a Motion to Adjourn, Diane seconded. All in favor, none opposed, Motion carried.