

Minutes – February 13, 2020

Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee

Present: Tom Finnegan, Chairman, Harry Nelson, Graham Gitchell, Scott Talbot, Bob Bartlett

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

Minutes of the January 23 meeting were accepted by Harry and seconded by Graham.

Tom announced Randall Walter's departure from Bensonwood and his upcoming appointment to the committee.

The committee members are very concerned about the slow-down in the facility plans. Tedd Benson has commitments that make him unavailable until the end of March or early April, and Steve Horton is unavailable until the end of February. The immediate concern is what presentation will be made at the March town meeting, and by whom. There can be no definitive presentation until the land situation is clarified in terms of building placement. The committee would like to see Rob Hitchcock's work begun sooner rather than later so that the building plans can be more complete in terms of exterior, roof, etc. Questions are anticipated from town meeting members regarding the site, and at this point the only reply is that it is to be determined.

A second concern is in regard to finances. The Board of Selectmen and Steve had agreed to request a sum of \$20,000 in March. The committee is not sure this is enough to cover the expenses anticipated for the complete building plans so that the project is ready for construction costs requests at the 2021 town meeting. There were questions as to how Rob Hitchcock's salary will be paid, how Steve is being paid, and will there be enough funds remaining after they are paid to complete the building drawings. Tom will contact Tedd and Steve regarding this matter.

There were also town meeting questions regarding who would make the presentation, and would Tedd be able to produce large-scale representations showing the present floor plan so that the townspeople can see what the committee and department have completed to date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45. The next committee meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett