

Minutes August 3, 2021

Present: Tom Finnegan, Harry Nelson, Wes Staples, Bob Bartlett, Graham Gitchell, Scott Talbot, and Randall Walter

Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting were accepted on a motion by Wes which was seconded by Scott.

Bob shared a handout of the fire department building in Wilton, NY. The building was constructed by Morton Buildings, Inc. He also shared a copy of the Board of Selectmen's minutes of their May 20, 2021 meeting regarding their perception of public opinion of the future of the fire station building plans.

This led to a lengthy discussion of the direction of the committee's next focus regarding presentation of the plans. In response to the BOS position, it was made clear that the voting record on the plans clearly undermines the BOS claims that many townspeople disapprove of the building. While it is acknowledged that the cost concern is valid, that is something that can be lowered. Adjustments can be made, without sacrificing the project. The townspeople need to see a response from the committee to their concerns, and the committee is committed to doing that. As regards the elimination of a bay to cut the cost, the committee felt very strongly that that would be a premature option which would cost much more in the long run, should the Town need to add on in the future. Several examples of this situation were cited. A fact sheet submitted by Steve Horton showed that the elimination of a bay would not show a substantial savings.

The issue of a Morton building was brought up as Harry reported his efforts in securing information from four different steel building companies. Two were unresponsive, and the other two reiterated that they usually built the shell, and then local contractors completed the construction. One company in particular quoted a price of \$400K for the shell only. Randall also explained that steel buildings tend to create interior condensation which can lead to rust and loss of heat.

In general, the committee will work to lower the cost as a show of good faith to the townspeople.

The scheduled meeting with the BOS on Thursday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m., was rescheduled for Thursday September 2. This will allow more members to attend and discuss the next step in bringing more information to the public and further discuss the elimination of the bay decision, with Steve Horton in attendance to add his input.

Also, Tom reported that the office of NHEM would contribute \$125,000 to the project.

Bob mentioned the drainage proposal that came with the drainage permit for the building. He was concerned as to the design and felt it would be substantially more costly.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett