

Minutes March 16, 2022

Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee

Present: Tom Finnegan, Harry Nelson, Graham Gitchell, Bob Bartlett, Scott Talbott, Wes Staples and residents Randall Walter, John Snowdon, Jason Bafundi, and Jim Kritzer.

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the January 14, 2022 meeting were accepted on a motion by Scott and seconded by Tom.

Following the approval of the fire station bond at the March 11 Town Meeting, the primary issue before the committee now is what to do when.

First issue involves two possible empty seats on the committee. The discussion that followed covered the benefit of additional input to the impending work, the input from the BOS, and the fact that the existing committee works well together, but wants input from the public at large. As all meetings are open to the public, it was decided to move forward with the present committee and encourage townspeople to attend and add input when appropriate.

From there, the discussion involved whether the committee has completed its function and should be disbanded. With the plethora of decisions pending throughout the construction phase, it was decided that the committee will be greatly needed for its input as the project moves forward.

Fundraising was the next issue to be raised, and it was determined that now is not the time to actively pursue this topic. A fund should be established in the event of citizens' donations, but a deliberate project should wait until the construction has proceeded further. Tom has been in contact with a person who has experience in writing grants. Along the same lines of townspeople involvement in the construction, a citizen has come forward and made a suggestion regarding using some of the bricks from the existing structure to perhaps be used as exterior facing between the equipment bays. The committee is open to other such suggestions from townspeople which add historical significance to the new structure.

Specifics of the next phase involved the next immediate issues of hiring an owner's representative as well as an architect; do the present people just roll over into the next phase? The BOS may have jurisdiction on that decision. Time frame: When can the drawings be done? When will the bond be available? Can site work be started this season? Once the architectural drawings are finished, the next step is to put those out to the subcontractors. Much discussion of specifics and options, with just as many questions. The suggestion was made that the committee be subdivided into subcommittees to focus on particular areas of the construction.

Many answers are needed before the next meeting. Tom plans to attend tomorrow's BOS meeting at 6:00 p.m., and gather more information so that the committee can move forward from this point. Future meetings are most convenient if planned on a Tuesday evening starting around 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Bartlett