

BOLTON MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2005 at 7:30 P.M

Present: Stephen Garner, Dick Heaton, Russ Karlstad, Brad Reed, Mickie Simpson, Chris Slade, Mark Sullivan, Ken Swanton, Nat Tipton (Town Planner)

1. Discussion with the Library Committee - Jeff Ochsenein and Robert Zak

Mr. Ochsenein handed out a Powerpoint presentation that summarized the Library Committee's work on planning for building an extension to the Town Library. Space is extremely tight in their existing quarters and is limiting the amount of volumes the Library can carry. Ochsenein thought the Committee would not be able to prepare a warrant in time for the May Town Meeting in 2005. At the earliest, a warrant article might be ready by Fall 2005, depending on if and when the Committee receives grant money from the state. In their planning, the Committee assumed space for 7,500 people in 2025, as they are required by the grant program to plan in twenty year increments. It is expected the state grant program would cover 40% of construction costs for the project that could exceed \$5.5 million. He noted a recent trend where Bolton residents were attending libraries in surrounding towns because of a perceived difference in quality.

2. Discussion with the Police Study Committee – Jeff Buffum

Mr. Buffum explained the most recent plan has reduced the space to 6,200 square feet, which is slightly smaller than stations in both Lancaster (pop. 7500) and Stow (pop. 6000) and is significantly smaller than the station in Harvard (pop. 6100). When using these comparisons however, it is important not to take a lot of stock in these because different police departments have different priorities which impacts space. The two sites being considered now are the Smith Property and the Cell Tower Site. The Cell Tower site is more attractive in that the Town already owns the property. However, both sites present unique and difficult challenges and therefore the Committee could not have a warrant article ready for Town Meeting at least until Fall 2005.

3. Capital Planning Discussion – Create Agenda for Thursday Selectmen's Meeting

Heaton explained the Selectmen were having a discussion at their meeting on Thursday February 3rd about capital planning. The Committee discussed various capital planning projects in the town are warrant attention in the coming years, including the impact of 40B and other housing growth on school budgets, DPW concerns over the lack of funding of roads, and burgeoning tax rates.

4. Advertising for March 14 Meeting

Mickie Simpson presented some ideas for a Committee logo that could be used on the flyer that Daylor prepared. She offered to incorporate the logo into a better design for the flyer. Ken Swanton offered to write an article for the Letter to the Editor section of the paper. The Committee set a goal of mailing the flyer by February 28th in advance of the March meeting.

5. Nomination of Co-Chairs

The Committee unanimously voted to nominate Dick Heaton and Stephen Garner as Co-Chairs.