

Community Facilities Planning Committee

c/o Falmouth Town Hall, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105, 781-5253

Community Facilities Planning Committee

Councilor Breen
Council Chair

Councilor Armitage
Council Vice Chair

Marsha Clark

Judith Currier

Phil Kaplan

Analiese Larson

Tim O'Donovan

Mark Soule

Steve Tenney

Meeting Notes Thursday May 15, 2008

Committee members present: Councilor Breen, Councilor Armitage, Marsha Clark, Judith Currier, Tim O'Donovan, Mark Soule, Steve Tenney

Advisors/Town staff present: Al Farris, Lyn Sudlow, Nathan Poore, Lucky D'Ascanio, Theo Holtwijk

Consultant present: Allison Towne DiMatteo, Mark Gianniny

Cathy started the meeting around 5 PM.

Minutes

The minutes were adopted as written.

Library Tour

A tour of the library follows on 5/20. Not everyone could do that and Lyn was offering an extra tour.

Town Hall Review

Al Farris presented some information on Town Hall. The building has 13,200 sf of floor area. The net floor area (minus circulation and unusable space) is a little less than 12,000 sf. He said the building dated back to 1810 or thereabouts. It has had two addition, including a second floor added to the ground floor addition. As it does not have an open floor plan it had limited use flexibility. The original use was always a Town Hall, and the police function, until very recently, was also always part of it. There was some question on the age of the building as there was an earlier Town Hall across Falmouth Road. The Town has a parking agreement with the church next door as the Town Hall building occupies most all of its site. The Town paid for a parking lot expansion at the church when the church expanded. The group then followed Al for a tour of the premises.

When the group came back it continued its discussion. The moving out of the police dept. provided an opportunity to make improvements as the current layout does not appear to function well. Minimum needs are paint and carpet. A decision has been made to allow the food pantry to occupy the former dispatch space. As other new uses,

Nathan could envision a small post office. As far as functions that do not need to be in Town Hall, Nathan mentioned community programs.

An opportunity exists for community programs – upon school district consolidation – to do something at the current Superintendent’s Office. The group wondered what the sentiment was to keep Town Hall where it currently is. Best guess was that it was important and that public sentiment on that issue should be measured. Marsha reported that with the library location there was a mixed message as people wanted the library to stay where it was, but also wanted it to do all the functions that could be accommodated at that location.

Community Programs Review

Lucky mentioned the past Ocean View proposal, the ideas for the warming hut that were part of the 2011 CIP, and the partnership proposal with Rotary – all for a community center of some sort. The department was most excited at the prospect of two vacant school buildings as it has seen what has been done with the former Shaw High School in Gorham. She received some information on that from her Gorham colleague, Cindy Hazelton.

She felt that the Town is currently limited in daytime programming space. Yoga, for instance, had been offered in the church next door and now in the Fire Station. The library has also been used for some programming. The school properties offer endless possibilities, such as drop in teen space, before and after care, and pre-school.

The department currently schedules space for 41 other entities at Town Hall and the schools. There is some revenue potential with doing that.

The group wanted to know how Falmouth compared with other communities. Lucky discussed Cape Elizabeth, which has a community center facility with a pool and Freeport, which is has a facility that is run by a non-Town entity.

Lucky preferred the school option, particularly as the community lacked gym space. A full size gym could per haps be added. The group discussed the potential of the school buildings for that. There is a kitchen at Plummer-Motz, which may be helpful for the booster dinners that are sometimes held.

A question was asked pertaining to outdoor space needs. A gravel area at the schools could be converted to a grass area and serve as a multipurpose field. There is also concert space potential (which depends on the growth of that function) as well as space for community gardens.

Currently 80% of the department’s cost is covered through program fees.

What is the status of the Rotary proposal? People are unclear about that as Rotary has not yet participated in these meetings. The sense was that perhaps Rotary was not too happy that the Town Council did not immediately act on its proposal. Moved on to other projects, and that it was now awaiting the Town’s readiness.

The traffic situation at the schools was discussed. This is primarily due to school-related traffic (15 busses, drop-offs) and the state rules that exist on that.

Is the school a done deal? Not quite, but almost.

Other Business

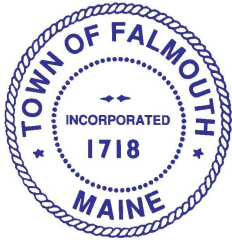
There was no other business.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is May 20th at 7:00 PM at the Falmouth Memorial Library, followed by a tour of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt schools on May 21st at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned around 6:55 PM.

Meeting notes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, May 19, 2008



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