

# FACILITIES COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2016

**Opening:** The Facilities Committee was called to order at 7pm on September 19, 2016 at the Lee Safety Complex by Deborah Schanda

**Present:** Paul Gasowski, Larry Kindberg, Wayne Lehman, Deborah Schanda

**Absent:** David Meeker

**Public Attendance:** Scott Bugbee

**Approval of Minutes:** August 22, 2016 meeting minutes submitted by David Meeker approved.

**Discussion:**

In response to the recent events regarding the activity of the Select Board in moving forward an agenda that appears to be in conflict with the charge of the Facilities Committee, the committee discussed at length the points of redundancy between the Board and the Committee as well as the perceived improper behavior of the Board.

Paul: started the conversation by asking the question “Where are we?” The Board has expressed its will in narrowing the focus to consider only the Stevens Field property as a suitable location for a new Town Hall and has taken on the body of work. The Board stated that the Facilities Committee should run parallel but would have different roles. Deborah spoke at the Select Board meeting stating that this initiative by the Board is an affront to the Facilities Committee. An explanation from the Board is in order as to why the decision was made to take on this work themselves, why the Facilities Committee was not contacted when meetings were held that expressly addressed deliverables of the Facilities Committee, why there was the belief that the Facilities Committee was not meeting when both agendas and meeting minutes were sent to the Town Secretary, Denise Duval. It was not the fault of the committee that it didn’t start earlier in the summer as no one was contacted despite emails sent to the Town Administrator, Julie Glover by Paul and Deborah. Larry was asked to convene the committee though there is no understanding as to why he was selected despite the question being posed. Despite the overtures made by the Board, there is no substantive reason to abandon the charge. With construction and renovation comes big dollars and the town deserves transparency. The action of the Select Board warrants a letter of explanation to the Facilities Committee. On Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, the Board elected to discuss the topic of the town facilities under the consent agenda. The town has grown up now with a town administrator and thus these errors should not occur. The Select Board needs to acknowledge its error and accept accountability. Deborah asked about the differing roles between the work the Select Board has taken on and the Charge of the Facilities Committee. Paul recollected that the Board stated they would take on the new building while the Facilities Committee would take on renovation of existing buildings. The public expressed their desire for a

# FACILITIES COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2016

comprehensive plan coupled with a phased approach and the associated dollars. The Facilities Committee Charge specifically states that the deliverables are due by June 2017 yet there the Board is working with urgency. This is not the way it should be.

Larry reiterated the statement made in an email sent in response to being invited to the Select Board meeting to be made aware of the work they had taken on: “Why are we doing this?” Recounting of Mr. Tappan’s remarks of a meeting in Concord where it was stated that there is no appreciation for the volunteer efforts of the persons serving on committees. This can be seen in the treatment of the Recreation Committee with several examples cited. The Facilities Committee must stay to the end as it is the best way to ensure there are checks and balances.

Deborah stated that John LaCourse inferred the Board meeting of Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, that the Facilities Committee should continue and the Select Board to cease their activities.

Wayne stated that he was in favor of moving forward with the charge as is.

Further conversation regarding how the Board could state that they didn’t know the Facilities Committee didn’t meet when Larry informed the Board at the same meeting that the Board elected to discuss the town facilities as part of the consent agenda.

Paul: this is a big project; the committee should look all around.

Wayne: pursue the project as long as not cherry picked.

Larry: stay the course. The Town Center Committee gathered good information and a lot of work has already been done.

Wayne: 100% agreement, lot of work already completed, same as the Race Track

Further discussion regarding timing and Board comments: Board would like the proposal as a warrant article for spring 2017. Paul stated he didn’t see how this could happen. Cary Brown was noted as stating that the Board to talk together and act together. Paul stated “Who will ask the serious questions?” It is problematic for any board to act as such. John LaCourse was noted as stating “There was no vision for a project”.

The committee concludes that we should move on, continue as planned.

Deborah asks if there is a desire to move more quickly. An approach would be to analyze all options for the Town Hall and all options for the Library with associated pros and cons. Is the parsonage an option?

# FACILITIES COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2016

Larry: the church is not happy with the town. Over the years the church has deeded land to town and been a partner with the town but town does not reciprocate. Church events are not allowed to be included in the E-Crier. Church has done a lot and the town has done nothing. Many church members are on committees and serving as chairs. There was a previous discussion for the church to sell a parcel of land to the town; this was discussed during the Town Center Committee sessions. The parsonage is historic and will take significant dollars to repair and renovate. Church may continue to consider but it will take a paradigm shift.

### Town Hall Options:

<u>Option#</u>	<u>Option Name</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
1	Town Hall Addition	Requires temporary relocation
2	Public Safety Complex Addition	
3	Stevens Field	Documentation shows it is buildable
4	Parsonage	Historic, expensive to repair and renovate
5	Bricker Property	Buildable, ~ 3.5 acres
6	Library	

### **Action Items:**

- Review pros and cons from Town Center Committee proposal
- Document further information regarding options, if known

### **Agenda for Next Meeting:**

- Discussion of Town Hall options and pros and cons
- Discussion of Library options and pros and cons
- 

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Deborah Schanda. The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on September 26, 2016, at the Lee Safety Complex

**Minutes submitted by:** Deborah Schanda

**Approved by:**