

Public Restrooms Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015

The second meeting of the Committee was convened by Kathy Barnard at 10 AM on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 in the Town Hall Annex conference room, with the following persons in attendance: Kathy Barnard, Rob Houseman, Adam Tasker, Linda Murray, Bob Tougher, Ethan Hipple, and David Owen. Mary DeVries was absent.

The minutes of the October 27, 2015 meeting of the Committee were moved to be approved as submitted by Bob Tougher, with Linda Murray seconding the motion, upon which the minutes of the October 27, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Rob Houseman explained the map he had distributed to members which depicts the public bathroom facilities in and around the downtown area. It depicts the locations of year-round public bathrooms, the seasonal public restrooms, and the porta-potties. Rob said that the questions it raises is whether we have enough public restroom facilities and whether enough of them are year-round facilities. In response to a question, Ethan Hipple offered that the proposed new public restrooms in the Foss Field pavilion project will be seasonal facilities.

Relative to the information about what other resort-type communities provide to their visitors in terms of public restrooms that Rob disseminated to members via e-mail, Dave Owen stated that it appears that Wolfeboro is doing as much or more already than any of the other communities that were surveyed. Specifically, it was noted that Laconia only has one public restroom at Weirs Beach in the Chamber of Commerce building; Camden, ME only has 1 public restroom near its harbor; Sag Harbor, NY has 2 unisex bathrooms in its Town Hall and 2 restrooms with 2 stalls each near the harbor; Bethel, ME has only 1 public restroom in a Chamber of Commerce facility which is funded by Maine Dept. of Transportation; and Alton has 1 year-round public restroom and 1 seasonal restroom. In summary, it was felt that we have lots of public restroom facilities and are planning more of them at Foss Field and Abenaki. The question is whether we can expand the restrooms at Dockside and make them available to the public year-round.

Relative to making Dockside restrooms open year-round, it was reported that Dave Senecal had suggested that heating equipment could be located in the attic of the Dockside Restaurant facility. It was also pointed out that year-round use would require snow plowing up to access the restrooms. The use of porta-potties in the winter season at Dockside and at Albee Beach was discussed, and it was noted that porta-potties require additional maintenance in the winter.

Bob Tougher suggested that Dockside should be the Committee's focus for long-term restroom facilities improvements. These restroom improvements could be integrated into the plan for Dockside parking lot improvements that DPW Director Dave Ford is developing. Bob also stated that he doesn't think the Wolfeboro Oil Building is a good candidate for public restrooms. Rob Houseman concurred that as far as long-term improvements are concerned, the only improvement needed is an expansion of the public restrooms at Dockside and making them year-round.

In the short-term, winter porta-potties are needed at Dockside and Albee Beach. Linda Murray suggested 2 at Dockside (1 regular, 1 handicapped accessible), to be increased to 3 at Dockside during the period of the Fisherville event, and 1 handicapped accessible porta-pottie at Albee Beach. The question then became how much this short-term solution will cost. It was quickly calculated that it would cost about \$2,500. Adam Tasker may have funds in his DPW Buildings & Grounds budget, and he will check with Dave Ford about the availability of these funds. Ethan Hipple will be requested to obtain pricing from his porta-pottie vendor for these additional units.

The next meeting of the Committee was set for 10 AM on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the Annex conference room. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

David Owen, Town Manager