

Public Safety Facilities Task Force

Minutes

January 24, 2023

9:30 am

Zoom

Members in attendance: Tom Bilotta, Christine Lear, Jerry Lerman, Bill Risso, Ingo Szegvari

Members not in attendance: Lee Storrs

Others in attendance:

Carlisle Master Planning Member John Ballantine, Mosquito reporter Cynthia Sorn, Interim Police Chief Kenneth Fong, George Freeman, Annette Lee, John Lee, Carlisle Town Planner Julie Mercier, Mike Saylor, Fire Chief Fire Chief Bryan Sorrows

I. Call to order: 9:30 AM

II. Public Comment: Mike Saylor requested the link for meeting recordings. Recordings are not for the public. Recordings are being done for the Mosquito. Looking to get the packet that the committee members get prior to meeting so the public can be aware of agenda and materials. We post the agenda. Packets are for members of the committee for administrative work. Bryan asked what do we want the center to look like. The idea of a front yard for the fire station is a modern concept. The fire station used to have their front doors just off the main street. Historical picture was shown. Make sure police station not a bandaid. What do we want for the police station? Bryan went to an open house at the Maynard fire station. 20,000 sqft for about \$20 million. Acton 11,000 sqft for about \$10 million. So the cost is roughly \$1,000-900 per square foot.

III. Vote to approve minutes from November 1, 2022, and January 30, 2023. Jerry first and Tom second. All were in favor.

IV. Discussion about visit to land behind Town Hall: Full of possibilities. More options are possible. Jerry said possible for town center connectivity. Tom agrees. Ken mentions a board walk is not practical on a day to day basis. Storage building by town hall what could go in for police. Use caution for costly boardwalk that may not solve police station issues. Bill by cemetery rock wall can make a drive way crossing wetlands and we can replicate somewhere else. Water and sewer already follow this location. Connect to town hall road easier to maintain over a walkway. Future use good say 12 feet wide driveway/road. Mike says should have walked behind burial ground. That section is a possibility for parking. Does not go into wetlands. Could fit 30 cars in buffer zone. In wetlands maybe get 70 parking spots. 9'x20' for parking spot and 22' for driving isle. Tom said design not in a zoom call. A skilled individual should do a study for possibilities. Mike has more ideas and a presentation. Christine said we have project creep. Asset behind police station could be used for more than police. Can help town hall. Fold into solution for town hall needs. Because our charter joins other town owned properties. John Lee said consider other properties on Lowell Street to connect or expand town land. We have discussed as options but looking to move now is not yet. Christine said we need to hone in on the content of our studies. The fire station study is over \$10,000 and will need 3 quotes. The old police TDA report is a little stale. Current new proposals for studies Ryan Lane can do this for the town. Town hall needs more parking and storage. COA also needs more space. Project creep but we should work collaboratively. Jerry suggested 3 studies: Fire, Police, and Overall study of town center. Plan for now and future. Maybe another task force for the town center needs. Fire station not in business district. Only 5 buildings are in the business district. If town buildings are put in the business district the set backs are smaller and could help with building and driveway design. Other center lots are in district A is one acre zoning but many homes are grandfathered in if smaller. The Verizon building is owned privately by New England Telephone. Rezone fire and police stations sounds like a

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good idea. Fire has less concerns for neighbors. Police might have more. Ballantine rezoning will require a 2/3 rds vote at town meeting. A variance might be easier to move forward. We need studies for our options. Ryan start these proposals. What else show we include to give select board. Bryan said we should talk to the town planner. Julie Mercier is starting to ketchup and understand where we are. She is ready to meet if needed for facilities planning. Anyone else coming in now will also need to ketchup. What are some high level items to look at with Julie. Site, wetlands, neighbors, needs, historic, underground septic and ledge. Tom select board fund or town meeting fund studies. Yes town meeting to fund. Town should get informed to keep going. Do presentations prior to town meeting. Presentation from Mike Saylor and letter from John Lavry. Tom said Mike has shown enough. Need to now to explore from a professional. Ingo said can we do or should do something now for short term needs for fire station or police. Christine said Mike should focus on ideas and present at the next meeting on February 7. Comments on John Lavery letter. Bryan and Ingo disagree with John's parking analysis. Police shift change requires parking for two shifts of officers. For about 30 minutes you might have twice the number of officers. Police officers often stay later after a shift change. Then you account for Administrative staff, guests and a class and the parking is not enough. A driveway and not a path as discussed would be more useful. Bill agrees parking is too tight.

- V. Public comment: February 7 Mike will do a presentation. Work on next step on proposals. Then focus on town meeting. Ballantine said parking 12-15 spots seems feasible. How do we get there? Study should help us. Tom said we should plan properly. The center should look nice. The trend is driving less and walking more. Build not an eye soar. Make sure the historic commission is included. Julie said make sure to get all relative parties involved early in scope. Are we comfortable that we have some solutions that can go forward with? Jerry said we need a unified plan for the town meeting. Next meeting will be February 7 at 9;30 am via zoom.

VI. Meeting adjourn at 10:24 AM

PSTFT Documents area available through the town website or at
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kgTJDWtzyoV6BejpL8H8424I2QZd3aHj>

Submitted by Ingo Szegvari
Unanimously Approved February 7, 2023