



## OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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### **SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES**

**July 6, 2021**

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Selectman Nelson and Selectman Pitt were present. Also in attendance was Ellen Smith, Town Administrator. Joining the meeting via Zoom were Tom Weller and David Bergeron. Bruce Lyman tried to join the Zoom call but had connection issues.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report provided by Randall Rhoades, PE of M & W Soils Engineering with the architect and engineering consultants. The report gives the results of the test pits dug on June 16, 2021 at the Frost Free Library as part of the Board of Selectmen's plan to gather information normally provided in a comprehensive site plan and survey conducted before the construction phase of a project like the addition.

The Board requested that Ted Fellows be present at this meeting via Zoom as he is consulting on the project as the structural engineer for the firm T.R. Fellows Engineering. Before Ted joined the meeting, the Board asked Mr. Bergeron what the soil report told him. He said that nothing from his end really changed. He reported that the plan for the Library Way driveway entrance is 100% done and the Route 124 option still needs some work and will depend on the placement of the addition. Mr. Weller said that nothing really changed from his perspective, he saw nothing shocking in the report and he has plans available in case it is decided that the addition needs to be situated further away from the tunnel. The two options he is currently working on are the original floor plan and one that is longer and skinner and further away from the tunnel. The Board is also interested in investigating the feasibility of building the addition on the Pleasant Street side of the existing building. This was the reason for the test pits on the Pleasant Street side, to determine if that area is a viable alternative for the placement of the addition and would eliminate a majority of the risk involved in building close to the tunnel and the future expansion of the tunnel as the current system is at capacity per Mr. Bergeron's overview of the watershed.

Mr. Weller said that if it is decided that the addition is to be positioned on the Pleasant Street side of the building, there would be significant fees associated with the redesign and he would need an additional 4-6 months. The Board understands the concern but looking at all alternatives is part of the Selectmen's due diligence.

Selectman Pitt asked that the conversation be redirected back to the original purpose of the call and without Mr. Fellows on the call, perhaps this meeting should be rescheduled. At this time Mr. Bergeron called Mr. Fellows and was able to get him on the phone. The connection was poor and it was very difficult to clearly hear what Mr. Fellow's was saying. At one point he did say that one thing the report told him was that there may be a problem in the future expanding the tunnel. With the Board most interested in Mr. Fellow's comments on the report and with the connection being so poor, it was decided to end the call and for Mr. Weller to get in touch with TA Smith to schedule an in person meeting next week in the later afternoon. With that, Mr. Weller, Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Fellow's ended the zoom at 4:55 pm.

The Board discussed the report and are very interested in hearing from Mr. Fellows and the concern he raised about future expansion of the tunnel.

Nothing in the soil study excluded the Pleasant Street side of the building. There are currently three options on the table:

1. Build the addition as currently planned.
2. Build the addition where currently planned but longer and skinnier, further away from the tunnel.
3. Build on Pleasant Street side.

The Selectmen agreed that if built on the Route 124 side of the building it would need to be the longer, skinnier option. The Board agreed to eliminate number one above as a viable alternative. The two remaining options rely, in part, on Mr. Fellow's review of the soils report. The Board has been concerned about construction on the Route 124 side of the building since the addition was first proposed. The tunnel and surrounding infrastructure are currently functioning and if it were not for the addition, there would be no need to address concerns about its current condition or future plans to expand or replace.

Selectman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator