



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES September 1, 2021

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Nelson and Selectman Pitt were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator and DPW Director Craig Cashman.

Several members of the public joined the meeting to hear about updates on the Stormwater Project.

Craig has scheduled a crew to come in for camera work in the downtown area. A full day will be scheduled. TA Smith will speak with Gale Associates about any additional video footage they would like to assist them in the stormwater project.

The DPW and Water Departments installed the two inch water line at the Frost Free Library. There was a significant space in the granite where the water lines come into the building which have now been mortared up. Maybe this will help with some of the moisture issues.

Craig updated the Board on a call he received from Mutual Aid about the fire alarm going off at the library over the weekend. The Board asked TA Smith to provide the Library Director with some guidance on the proper steps to take to be sure the alarm is properly reset after the alarm is silenced by the Fire Department.

Tom Weller joined the meeting at 11:00 and Craig left shortly thereafter.

The Board informed Mr. Weller that they had been meeting in work sessions for the past several days, trying to make the east side work. The consensus of the Board is that the east side is the preferable, safer way to go. The Board has to look at this project and how it relates to or could affect the town as a whole, the residents in the vicinity and the tax rate. If each side had the same cost the east side would be the way to go. The two sides are not equal at this time and so the Board has been considering what could be done to make the east side doable.

The Board is asking Mr. Weller to go back and look at the east side as if there was no west side option and it was within the budget and limits of available funding. There is a possibility that the cost of west side is now also higher than the funds raised. The Board has come up with some ideas that need to be looked at.

The Board emphasized that they are aware of and understand the timeline Mr. Weller is working with.

Selectman Nelson's legal conflict also still needs to be resolved before a vote can be taken.

Mr. Weller was asked to use his knowledge, creativity, experience and what has been learned over the last year to revisit the plan, keeping in mind that they do not want to lose any programming. The goal is to come out with a project everyone can agree upon.

Three years ago, the tunnel was brought up as a concern. More information is known about the tunnel and the watershed as well as recently learning how shockingly evident the destructive force of water can be as has been seen in the downtown area after recent heavy rain events. The same infrastructure is present in both the downtown area and on the library site.

The budget is a concern, money was used to learn about the tunnel and the Board is certainly sensitive to the 150 Committee's monetary concerns.

One question the Board needs guidance on is the need for the second means of egress from the top floor of the library. To rebuild these stairs is a big expense. Is it feasible to modify the use of the upstairs once the addition is used to be used only for storage? If so, would this eliminate the need for the stairs. Mr. Weller noted that he will need a code review from the State Fire Marshall's Office.

If the stairs are required, can the placement be changed?

Can the west side "bump out" be deleted? Mr. Weller said that he needed that space for programming and staff offices. The Board asked that he consider overall use again and see what other options there may be.

In the granite building the bathroom is being demolished and the current plan has it replaced with a seating area. Would it be possible to house the Historical Society items in that area and maybe throughout the library so the public can view it? Maybe it would be a great addition to the granite section of the library.

Perhaps the children's area in the current proposal isn't feasible at this point. Maybe a warrant article at a future town meeting could raise the funds for the expanded children's area.

The Board is looking for a compromise and are confident in Mr. Weller's abilities. He agreed to work on revisions and get something to the Board quickly.

Mr. Weller left the meeting at 12:05 pm.

The Town received the resignations of Beverly Harris, leaving a vacancy on the Budget Advisory Committee and Rob Harris, leaving vacancies in the following positions: Moderator, Trustee of the Trust Funds and Planning Board. The Board asked TA Smith to reach out to the various committees.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 pm, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Ellen Smith, Town Administrator