

Fire Station Building Advisory Committee
August 1, 2006
Town Hall Annex

Chairman Flanders called the meeting to order at 1904 hours

Committee members present: Peter Brothers (Board of Selectmen's Representative)
Jason Cornelissen
Bob Flanders
Carol Granfield
Steve Nedeau
Chuck Palm
Dave Parker
Carl Smith
David Sticht
Karen Sticht

Members absent with notice: Wayne Bredvik
David "Bud" Larrabee
Ann Sprague

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the Committee meeting of July 18, 2006 by Nedeau and seconded by D. Sticht. There being no discussion, a vote was called and the motion passed with three abstentions (Flanders, Granfield & K. Sticht), due to not being present at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION: Chairman Flanders informed the Committee that Ann Sprague had submitted her intent to resign from the Committee due to fact that when she requested to be on the Committee, the Tuesday meeting dates had not been determined. As a result of the meetings having to be scheduled on Tuesdays, which conflict with her work schedule, it will be necessary to resign at this time. A motion was made and seconded to accept Sprague's resignation with regret and to retain Sprague as an ex-official member, motion passed unanimously.

Palm informed the Committee that Wayne Bredvik had recently undergone heart surgery and has been unable to attend our meetings. He indicated that he is getting the minutes and looks forward to staying involved. The Committee wishes Wayne a speedy recovery.

INTERNAL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: Chairman Flanders turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Parker who presented the Committee with a power point presentation, recapping the activities of the internal fire department building committee that has been meeting regularly since July of 2005. The purpose of the internal committee was to develop the space requirements of the Department over at least a twenty-five (25) year time horizon and to look at potential ways of incorporating these needs into a "building envelope".

Some of the highlights of this presentation included:

- The power point presentation could be expanded as this Committee proceeded and serve as a format for future public presentations
- A surveyed plot plan of the existing location
- Conclusions reached regarding the existing location
- Sketch of how the building footprint could be modified together with a rough elevation rendering
- Concept of how the building could be renovated to provide the additional space felt to be necessary, together with the idea that this could be phased over time (e.g. provide a shell for the possible living area, minimize the need to have apparatus housed off site for an extended construction period, etc.)
- A space inventory which coincides with the previous findings of the Town's "Space Needs Committee"

As concluded by the Internal Committee, although it would be nice to have a much larger site to work with at the present station location, it was their feeling that the present site meets all of the perceived location requirements and probably a renovation(s) could achieve the basic issues identified in the space inventory. Everyone should keep in mind that, should the fire department need to expand its present fleet, beyond the space information presented by the internal committee, then this expansion would probably be best achieved with a sub-station located East of Town, including the Neck area.

The Committee raised several questions during the presentation including the need to decide upon a logical sequence for the Advisory Committee. Chairman Flanders requested that Granfield distribute to the Committee, information as to the process used by both the Community Center and Police Station committees.

ALTERNATIVE SITES: Chairman Flanders asked for an informational discussion regarding alternative sites for a Downtown Station. Palm presented a recap of a report prepared in May of 2003, done in conjunction with the Police Department when preliminary work was done regarding a possible life safety complex. Much of that work was centered around the Fire department's need to be centrally located for both firefighters to respond to the station and in turn respond with apparatus from the station in a timely manner. At that time eight locations were identified, most of which were south or west of the present station. Upon evaluation, only one of those locations surfaced as being a viable alternative to the present location. Of these original eight locations, currently three have been committed to other uses, one is presently under a purchase/sales agreement, one has a conservation easement, one is not available for acquisition and two that have site issues that would most likely require extensive expenditure of funds.

It was agreed that the Committee should continue to look at alternate sites and/or expansion possibilities as we move forward.

OTHER: It was agreed that the following be accomplished by next meeting;

Palm to work on preparing a smaller version of the ISO station map, using the most recent data obtained from ISO.

Bud to research adjoining property.

Palm discussed some options for a station visitation by the committee, with the first one starting in September. Locations selected by the Committee consisted of Holderness, Gilford and Conway. Also a possible visit to Ashland.

Flanders reminded everyone that the next meeting would be August 15, 2006 at 2000 hours at the Town Hall Annex and if you are unable to attend please be sure to notify either the Chair or Vice Chair. Their contact information is as follows: Chair at 387-1409 or by email at robertflanders@verizon.net; Vice Chair at 279-9911 or by email at deparker@meredithfire.org.

ADJOURNMENT: Flanders, seeing that there was no further business to be brought before the Committee, requested a motion to adjourn. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 2059 hours.

Respectfully submitted, C. Palm