

Future Facilities Committee

MINUTES ~ April 16, 2024

Approved 5/21/24

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Pat Christian, Chair. Attending the meeting were the following: Pat Christian, Jesse Peters, Matt Nielsen, Susan Briggs Peters, Mike Pascarella, Paul Schumann, Bo Chesney (notetaker), Dick Hogue, and Andy O'Brien. Select Board member Jon Morris also attended.

The minutes for Mar 12, 2024, were approved with minor amendments.

The revised site plan dated April 2024 from Port City Architects (PCA) was reviewed along with accompanying notes and email from PCS. It showed the significant preliminary wetland delineations based on Flycatcher's environmental site assessment but not the proposed building location. Paul noted that large wetland areas needed to be avoided. Jesse said he had a phone conversation with the Flycatcher biologist after their site walk. She stated that in her opinion there were no Vernal pools on the property. He felt it was too early to draw conclusions and we needed to wait for the final report. Pat will ask PCA to have the site plan updated to show the building and inquire when the final report would be ready.

Bo asked if the Committee has a Plan B and/or an alternative site noting the potential environmental concerns of the site being proposed. Paul said several ideas might include splitting the building into separate facilities for Public Works and Public Safety and/or utilizing another site which might include the Town owned land in the Village District, such as the land between Malet Hall and the proposed site. He noted that PCA had so far chosen the "easy" way in utilizing a combined building approach but now they may need to be asked to seriously consider approaching it with the idea of not combining the facilities.

The need for a potential special meeting with PCA & Flycatcher may be needed once Flycatcher's work is complete and the building has been sited on the plan.

A potential Warrant Article was discussed that would provide additional funding for further investigation of the project by a subsequent committee. It was noted that the funding could be supplemented by anything left over from the current committee's budget. Jon described Bradbury Mountain State Park's intent on expanding the campground, but it was too early to tell if this could have an impact on Pownal's project.

Discussion then moved to Town Meeting and other communications with the public. Pat suggested reviewing the presentation made to the Select Board on 3/19/24 to use as a potential template for future discussions with the public. Susan said we needed more

visuals to convey the shortcomings of existing facilities. Mike noted we needed to include the need for Mutual Aid response in the discussions. Paul noted the next audience will not be as familiar with the existing deficiencies....they will be private citizens with a vested interest in outcome. He noted we need to think about who will be the audience and what questions will they have? What's needed in the buildings? Why bunks?, etc. Mike noted it depends on how the questions are asked: "Do you want it? Are you willing to pay for it?"

Jon suggested using the town's newsletter to build in argument. Bo suggested possibly a series of articles, one on Public Works, the next on Public Safety, for instance. He also suggested it would be very helpful to show pictures of Mutual Aid trucks sitting outside the existing fire station, trucks backing into the station with little clearance and blocking the road, etc.

Paul asked if we could hire a videographer to make a 5–8-minute video for the town's YouTube Channel. Jon will investigate that possibility and thought it was a good idea.

Bo reported that the application window for the current round of CDS funding was open but very narrow and illustrated the need to be ready with a comprehensive grant request ahead of time should the town wish to pursue it in the future.

The next scheduled meeting is on 5/21/24 unless an earlier meeting with Flycatcher and PCA is deemed needed once more information is available following the environmental site assessment report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.