

## Public Safety Property Reuse Working Group

March 16, 2022

### Minutes

The Working Group participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Working Group members present: Linda Alexson, Keith Anderson, Janice Clements-Skelton, Janet Craft, Gordon Harris, John Sarni, Paul Seaman.

Not present: Scott Glosserman, Laurie Paskavitz, Jeff Poirier.

Linda Alexson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members were introduced. A member of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund/Housing Partnership will be appointed.

The working group's charge and goals were reviewed, namely to provide community leaders and residents with a variety of potential uses for the existing police station and fire station, and options for site(s) to relocate the community gardens presently on Pineswamp Road.

The current goal indicates that potential uses for the existing police and fire station properties would be presented to the Select Board prior to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Given the working group has just recently been formed, this is unrealistic and the timeline should probably be extended to be prior to the 2022 Fall Town Meeting.

Citizens Queries: None.

### Organization of Working Group:

*Vote:* Janice Clements-Skelton moved to nominate Gordon Harris as Chair and Keith Anderson as Vice-Chair. Janet Craft seconded. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

*Vote:* Janice Clements-Skelton moved to nominate Linda Alexson as Secretary to keep the minutes. Keith Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

### Property Evaluation Process:

Bob Ryan from ICAM attended the meeting and began discussing ICAM's interest in possible use of the fire station. He will attend a future meeting when potential town uses for the properties are discussed.

Discussion was held regarding the evaluation process. The first step should be a tour of the current fire and police stations. It would be helpful to have the building inspector's input as to code issues, both currently and what might be required for potential uses, such as office space, retail, housing, etc. He should be invited to a working group meeting.

A lot of initial interest has been expressed for use of the buildings. This group needs to be objective about all potential uses and all possibilities should be considered equally. A process should first be developed to evaluate the properties and see what potential uses they have.

Working Group needs to develop a sense of the value of the properties. Suggestions included inviting local realtors to perform market analyses.

Brainstorming session(s) should be held early on in the process to solicit ideas for uses. If the town keeps the properties, funding will need to be considered.

The working group's recommendations will ultimately be presented to the Select Board. Depending on cost, final decision(s) may require town meeting vote, town meeting vote followed by a ballot vote, or Select Board vote if funding is available within the operating budget.

Linda noted that the YMCA has expressed interest in exploring possibly using some of its land for the public gardens that are currently on Pineswamp Road. We should invite the Y's representative to attend our next meeting.

Public outreach and input are very important. Janice suggested hosting community vision-sharing session, similar to what was done with the Community Development Plan, and creating a town-wide survey that would give residents an opportunity to weigh in with their ideas.

#### Next Meetings

Gordon will reach out to the Fire Chief and Police Chief to ask if the working group could tour the buildings Saturday morning, March 19. The building inspector should be asked to attend if he is available. Questions may be asked, but no deliberations or discussions may be held.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

#### Adjourn

*Vote:* Keith Anderson moved to adjourn. Janice Clements-Skelton seconded. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.

Submitted by Linda Alexson