

OPM Steering Committee
With Select Board
Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom

OPM Steering Committee Present: Jim Ayres, Dan Bonham, W. Kim Boas, Jason Connell, Brenda Lessard, Jean O'Neil, Paul Wetzel, Denise Wickland

Other: Rob Todisco (P3), Kevin Chrobak (architect – Juster Pope Frazier), William Sayre (Select Board), David Mathers (Select Board), Bob Labrie (Consultant), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes: Moved and seconded (W.K.B./B.L.) to approve by majority vote the minutes of February 18, 2021 (all Boards meeting).

The Committee reviewed how they felt the All Boards Meeting went and the outside table meetings in the four locations (two post offices, market and transfer station) in the community.

All Boards Meeting:

- Really good attendance
- Went well - positive responses
- Presentation may have been a bit too long & using the chat function may inhibit good dialogue – brainstormed how to do that better in the next public presentation

Community table meetings:

- People did homework – many said they were in the know
- A lot of support
- Concerns about tax rate but concerns were larger than the project itself
- Some folks misinterpreted the tax information – assuming the \$233 annual figure for the recommended option was a quarterly figure. Discussed how to correct that in the next handout.
- Discussion of how to recognize and honor Helen E. James – allowing tours of the building prior to demolition, saving pre-cast name or architectural aspects of the buildings, naming the park or building after Ms. James, selling bricks to people and using those funds for the memorial park.
- Noted that the park and honoring Ms. James was an absolute must to happen, but should be handled under a different committee or group. However, members felt it was important to meet with the Alumni group and those who wish to memorialize Ms. James to hear their thoughts about the project and to make sure that their thoughts get captured and shared and acted on (tour, video, save certain aspects of the building) if appropriate before any demolition.

- Noted that some people are bringing up other parcels of land to look at, the Committee felt strongly that they have looked at all the properties in the area that match the criteria.

Outreach Materials

- 2ND video – Condition of Helen E. James, tax implications, have committee members read the FAQ with answers while video taping other things, or drop them in between other community members speaking, talk about positive things – what does the community get from this – better response times, greater opportunity for community commons
- Finish the FAQ sheets

Public Presentation will be Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.