

Facilities Master Plan Committee
October 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Offices – Meal Site

Members Present: Jim Ayres, Robert Barker, Kim Boas, Mitch Cichy, Carol Conz, Nick Dines, Fred Goodhue, Charlene Nardi, Eric Weber

Members Absent:

Others: Dillon Sussman (facilitator, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)), Caitlin Marquis (Healthy Hampshire, Collaborative for Educational Services (CES)), Marie Westburg (Senior Center Director) and Dave Chase (Commons Co-working, resident).

Minutes of 10/13, 16 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Noted that there was a prior study on the Senior Center and Old Town Hall. Reviewed space needs of senior center based on prior study. Town Offices provide more space than needed but configuration and shared space doesn't work well enough.

Scenarios: Reviewed the five scenarios outlined by Dillon with cost estimates, projected phasing and estimated tax rate impact.

1. Renovate Town Office building – 1st Floor Town Depts., 2nd Floor Senior Center, sell HEJ, sell Haydenville Fire/Police station, use Wmsbg Fire Station for parking, put Public safety complex on James site, Haydenville Library use as meeting space, sell Old Town Hall building.
2. Renovate Town Offices for Community center, renovate HEJ in phases by floor with town departments on middle floor (1st), no action in rest of building for phase 1, Public Safety complex on James site, and sell both fire station buildings and Old Town Hall.
3. Sell Town Office building, HEJ renovate ground floor for storage, first floor for senior center & town depts., and second floor for town offices and unassigned space, place Public Safety Complex on James site, sell OTH and two fire station buildings, and use the Haydenville Library as meeting space
4. Sell Town Office building, HEJ renovation – police on ground floor and archive storage, middle floor for town departments and senior center, Fire complex on James site, sell two fire stations and OTH, Haydenville Library as meeting space. Haydenville Library as meeting space
5. Sell Town Office building, renovate HEJ – ground floor storage, first / middle floor Senior Center & Town Departments, second floor Town Depts. and unassigned space Public Safety complex on James site, sell OTH and two fire stations, Haydenville Library as meeting space.

All members agreed the Public Safety Complex was critical and a priority for the town; however, members were not in favor of the current preliminary design (too large / grand for community) and the siting on the James lot. Noted that the location and size limited uses of the James building for other needs and desired uses.

A 6th scenario was suggested with a focus of not building new but preserving what we have and addressing everyone's needs.

- Build Morton style building on Highway Dept. lot for public safety vehicles/equipment, renovate the James building for police / fire and town administration depts. with ground floor as storage or Historical society, renovate the existing Town Office building for Senior center/ historical society, renovate the Old Town Hall for overflow senior center or maintain for Historical society. . Suggestion was to separate the housing of the fire and police vehicles and equipment from the public safety administration offices. Move Angel Park to in front of James building, and use existing Angel Park area for parking. – provides a more prominent green space, the James building gets reuse, the Town/Fire/Police get adequate and updated office space, the Senior Center has room to expand, the Morton building can be built more reasonable cost, adds parking to downtown. Do in phases over time.
- Sell the remaining buildings.

Public Participation in Meetings: Members again discussed public participation and it was decided that the Committee would use the traditional/formal practice of engaging with the public at meetings by soliciting input during designated times of the meeting or if appropriate during discussion by having the facilitator call upon individuals that wish to speak.

Statements:

- Keeping the James sells one set of strategies
- Placing the Public Safety on the James site – limits options
- Making revenue streams is important, creating commons, community gardens and preserving town center is important.
- Economic development
- Can we revitalize the Brassworks, could those be used for Town Offices – rental.

Some members felt that the conversation was not moving forward and time was running short to meet the charge of the Committee. It was noted that most likely more time was going to be needed past the December deadline anyway. Suggestion that we need to answer the question of what we are trying to achieve and need to identify what our principals and goals are.

Directed Jim, Nick, Kim and Charlene to meet and put together a survey to help identify the principals and goals of members so as each scenario is discussed members can determine if it meets our main goals and principals and if not what we are giving up.

Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.