

Public Safety Complex Public Forum – Saturday, September 21, 2019

Questions from the Q&A after presentation:

- What happens to existing police and fire stations? Do they get converted to another use?
- Is moving the town offices to Helen E. James off the table?
- Was eminent domain considered for taking a private site?
- What is the sense of how much we can afford?
- Comment: Time is running out – we need to act
- Is existing town office building adequate?
- Glad we mentioned annual cost of keeping Helen E. James now?
- If we remove the Helen E. James, maybe there could be an investment in a virtual visit to tour the building?
- Have you considered keeping and reusing the façade of the building for the new building?
- What happens to the material of the building if it is taken down?
- Comment: no matter what, can't convince to take the building down because of beautiful architecture – not someone who attended the James school.
- What is the difference between Option B & C? - shared spaces in James
- What is the square footage cost being used? \$400 per square foot
- Comment – “so angry” the conditions of the current buildings being used are terrible, it is so important to address this, doing this is a no brainer.

Comments / thoughts / suggestions for next meeting:

- Bring Flood Plain Map – it was noted we could view it, but didn't have it
- Have video playing in front before presentation begins – the one done by Tom Adams or a video of all the current photos
- Suggestions for if James building is removed:
 - Model scale of James building in new building (engage with Smith College Students to do)
 - Save fountain
 - Park with Helen E. James name
 - Bench with her name
 - Name the building after HEJ
 - Show what could be in place of HEJ – so if it is removed shows what view would be like
 - Save part of building that has Helen E. James name in it
 - Re-use bricks
- CDBG grant was mentioned as possibility for funding – was later found to be inaccurate information
- Member of committee noted façade in one place fell down – maybe not a good idea
- Missing the 30 – 40 age group of voters / parents
- Was a general sense that folks present were listening, surprised by costs to keep or upgrade James

