

Owners Project Manager Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Williamsburg Town Offices
141 Main Street
Haydenville, MA 01039

Present: Jim Ayres, Denise Wickland, Jean O'Neil, Paul Wetzel, Mitch Cichy, Jason Connell, Brenda Lessard, Dan Bonham, W Kim Boas

Absent:

Other: Rob Todisco (P3), William Sayre (Select Board), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator)

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03

Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December 18, 2019 – vote to approve; approved (DW, JO)

Minutes from January 15, 2020 – vote to approve;

Summary of meeting with Finance Committee:

- Reviewed presentation
- Vocal group concerned about taxes relative to multiple times coming to town for funds
 - Town have non-binding referendum regarding spending up to “x” on safety complex (turned out to not be a good idea)
 - Comments about fear of saying no in Town Meeting; does it make sense to have a yes/no ballot
 - Meetings in the evening leave older population out
 - Consider bringing it up as a “vote” to the Finance Committee at the next meeting
 - Still move forward but with smaller “price tag”
 - Should we go back to the Finance Committee with a new number or just inform them? (Next meeting 2/19/20)
 - Going back shows a willingness to respond to their concerns
 - Committee strongly considering yes/no ballot (need 2/3 vote)
 - Strongly consider Finance Committee vote to bring to Town Meeting
 - **Motion made and unanimous vote to go back to Finance Committee with lower cost, secret ballot and ask for a vote/recommendation from them**

New Article Proposal: Special Town Meeting, Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

- Detail – scaled back (\$180K), still includes HEJ study (environmental & engineering), site analysis during the summer, schematics, site plan → will help determine if all options are still feasible; discussion if unused funds for survey (\$5000) are available for this committee to use for this purpose
- Discussion about some possible grant funding
- Handout flyer – drafted by Jean
 - Side note – increase in current two quarters of tax bill reflects 4 quarters of increase
 - Reminder that some of the data floating around about the Williamsburg tax rate is incorrect and correct information should be on the flyer; as well as other FAQs
 - Discussed posting various meeting dates/times and how to use social media to share facts about the project and related topics (taxes); consider a press release, calling people on Finance and in preparation for the Town Meeting; letters to the editor of the Gazette; “what if” we don’t do this type of information; using/sharing the town video about the safety complex; article in town newsletter; town sign boards; robo call regarding meeting dates/times
- Prep for February 8, 2020 at ATD 10 to noon

Other

Set Next Meeting date:

February 20th, 2020 @ 6:00

Public Participation:

Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 (DW, JO)