

Owners Project Manager Steering Committee Public Meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Anne T Dunphy Elementary School
Williamsburg, MA 01096

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00

Summary of meeting presentation:

- Introduction of committee members
- Review of committee's purpose/goal/steps taken
- PP presentation
- Tax rate information
- Committee contributions
- Discussion
- Q&A with committee members

Summary of community feedback:

- Multiple questions regarding definitions of terms used in presentation
- Multiple questions about what the town would "get" for the \$180,000
- Question about why the HEJ site and if it was a forgone conclusion; question coupled with statement about checking if the residents really want the HEJ building removed
- Gentleman talked about buying a farm on South Street and saving the buildings on the site and then compared that to saving the HEJ building
- Discussion about – "why is a public safety complex necessary"; with responses from committee members and former building supervisor
- Seeming conflict in understanding what the next step means relative to decisions about HEJ fate
- Questions about how the hiring/bidding process works regarding schematic design and architect
- Question about the possibility of modifying the question on the special town meeting floor – would that be in order or not?
- Multiple questions about the proposed design as it stands right now
- How can a person support the proposal but not agree with the HEJ site change still support police/fire building improvement?

- Committee can show why other sites were not viable (144 other sites)
- Will the schematic design show where on the site the complex would be located? Yes
- Do we think that the improved public safety site will improve insurance rating and attract businesses and home owners?
 - 30% of land protected
 - Zoning by-laws don't allow for big subdivisions
 - Increased population/housing would depend on a land owner selling to a builder
 - No changes in zoning bylaws are planned at this point
- Will the building fit in with a "New England" setting? Yes
- Sustainable, viable over time? Yes
- What would be the fate of the vacated buildings? No specific answer right now; Building Repurposing Committee is recommending they be sold; likely not for a lot of money
- Committee is considering coupling energy efficiency in the process of the building project – in the context of what is affordable
- What about the health issues and working conditions of the people that are working in those old buildings?
- After the announcement went out requesting landowners interested in selling to contact the town, there was no response. Informal meeting with owners that had properties that looked viable did not turn up options that were fiscally viable or had owners willing to sell. Speaker talked about previous committee's research on possible sites.