

Building and Facilities Committee
Minutes of 6-24-21; Whipple Hall

Members Present: Bowers, Cross, Sherman, Cardillo, Beasley, Bianchi;

Absent: Cannon; Hogle

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of May 17, 2021, were reviewed by the Committee and were then approved unanimously.

2. Reports

The Chair reported that he attended the Selectmen's meeting on June 21, 2021, related to the agenda item about next steps on the police station. He also noted that the Water System Precinct reported to the Selectmen that major work was being considered, and the cost could be as high as \$5 million.

He reported that Selectman Rollins suggested that a representative of the Selectmen, the BFC, and the Planning Board meet to discuss how to proceed with a public forum on the issues. It was also stated at that meeting that the first issue should be to have an agreed statement on what the issues and problems are at the Police Station, have an agreed-to set of data that all parties can reference, and that the Police Station discussion should be put into the broader context of all the other investment pressures facing the town (e.g., the various projects identified in the BFC investment report, a community center, etc.). The Chair was asked by the Committee to be the BFC representative to that group. He will do so, and suggested that a panel format for public discussions would be appropriate. The Committee agreed with that suggestion, and the Chair will discuss this with the group when it meets. Selectman Rollins has suggested a few dates, and the Chair will follow up on that. Mr. Bianchi stated that that group should clearly define what the issues are, and not rely on vague statements expressing wants, without data supporting those statements.

Whipple Hall Subcommittee: Mr. Sherman reported that Dennis Mires was continuing to work on the report of the Subcommittee, but due to unanticipated matters the final version was not ready for review. He noted, however, that the current draft version was not substantially different from the earlier drafts reviewed by this Committee, and that the Committee could rely on that for its priorities report.

3. Old Business

a. Priorities

The Chair introduced the discussion of the report on priorities (the Building and Facilities Investment Report). There ensued a discussion of those priorities and the broader issue of Town-wide priorities. There was agreement that the priorities discussed by the Committee in its report need to be viewed in the context of all issues faced by the Town, and comparisons made. There was discussion that the Master Plan survey placed police department needs as eight out of ten in terms of priority compared to other needs of the Town, while sidewalks and bike paths were stated as the number one priority in that survey. In addition, there are other issues such as the costs of water system repairs noted at the Selectmen's meeting, and more recent discussions that have arisen during discussions of the Stahlman building regarding a Town community center. As to the latter, there needs to be a discussion and determination of exactly what that means, and what it would cost, with a consequent decision by the Selectmen as to its priority among all other needs of the Town. Only if it is clearly defined, and a request made by the Selectmen, would this Committee be in a position to offer the Selectmen advice as to what might be needed.

Although the overall Town priorities is a subject for the Selectmen to work through, it is important to facilities management that all priorities of the Town be considered, and those set forth in the BFC report should be considered by the Selectmen in conjunction with weighing the priorities of other issues, and their costs, faced by the Town.

The Committee agreed that if any objectives within the stated needs and concerns of the Police Department were pursued by the Selectmen, the solutions could be met within the Buker building and site, and should be confined to that site. There were some other suggestions for minor changes to the report, and the Committee agreed that those could be incorporated into the final, approved report, but that the report itself could be approved at this meeting. The Committee will get the final report at least a week prior to its distribution to the Selectmen for its review to ensure the report is consistent with the changes discussed at this meeting. If there are no issues or questions by the Committee, the Chair will forward the final report to the Committee. It was then Moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Building and Facilities Investment Report as amended at this meeting, and forward it to the Selectmen as the Committee's recommendation.

4. *Other items to come before the Committee.*

None.

5. *Action Items*

(from 4-1-21)

- A. Peter Hogleund to discuss with Bob Harrington his thoughts on needs and solutions related to the DPW/transfer station, and to gather the relevant information and facts for future discussions with Mr. Harrington and the Committee. **Ongoing.**

(4-15-21)

- B. Peter Hogleund to confer with Bob Harrington, Mike Williams, and Phil Sherman to establish meetings and discussions to analyze facilities software issues. **Ongoing.**

(5-20-21)

- C. Peter Hogleund to meet with Bob Harrington, John Manaras, and Bob Brown to review possible changes at the transfer station to accommodate current needs. **In process.**

(6-17-21)

- D. All Committee members to review the current Master Plan prior to the next meeting on June 24, 2021. **Done.**
- E. Bob Bowers to send the Committee Charter and the Town link to the Master Plan. **Done during the meeting of 6-17-21.**
- F. Colin Beasley to make changes to the Priorities Report for discussion as the next meeting. **Done.**

(6-24-21)

- G. Colin Beasley to forward to the Selectmen the approved Building and Facilities Investment Report.

There will be no meeting July 1, 2021. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in Whipple Hall.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Beasley, Chair