

Town Facilities Review Committee

June 29, 2021, 7 p.m. Bantam Borough Hall
Special Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Sam Olmstead, Dave Carroll, Chris Casiello, Bill Deacon, Anne Haas, John Morosani, Jeffrey Zullo, ex Officio member First Selectwoman Denise Raap,

Members Absent: Matt Blasavage, Marc Moura

Alternates present: Burke Gibney and Recording Secretary Barbara Putnam

Others absent: Bantam Borough Liaison Nancy C. Tarascio-Latour

Others present: Eighteen members of the public

Call to Order: Chairman Sam Olmsted called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Presentation of Survey Results:

Sam Olmsted presented the PowerPoint of the Committee's charge, members, conditions of the Town Hall and the Bantam Annex, and survey results.

Q & A:

Points made:

The committee did not mention the results of the 2019 referenda, which showed there was no consensus about the Town Hall and the Bantam Annex.

Attendees mentioned these reasons for voting against the courthouse – that it eliminated the skating rink, and that it did not include adequate space for Park and Rec programs.

Attendees mentioned these reasons for voting against the Bantam Annex plan– that it cost the Town money for environmental cleanup, gave up ownership of the land, made a neighborhood exclusively for affordable housing like Circle Drive, and did not adequately protect the Park and Rec programs.

The Bantam Annex includes a large parcel of developable land.

The weaknesses of the Bantam Annex building are that it has a flat roof, internal drains, little insulation. Its strength is that it is all one level, so it would not require an elevator.

Any use of the Bantam Annex other than Municipal or Single-Family Housing would require a zone change. The presence of the Bantam Firehouse and Bantam Falls housing down the road makes traffic an issue.

The land on which the Town Hall is located would make a good municipal parking lot.

There is a deed restriction on the land under the Litchfield Town Hall requiring that it be used for Municipal or Public Use.

A sports complex and pool would be a dynamite win for Litchfield.

The vote on a Community Swimming Pool 20 years ago failed on a very close vote. Another attempt to bring a proposal forward failed because the budget specified could not be met. There is demand for the use of the pool by outside groups such as the police and Brandywine assisted living. Any future proposal for a pool would have to include life cycle costs that include maintenance.

Expanding our recreational facilities would increase our growth potential and possibly attract new families to town.

Arts, music and cultural facilities would also attract new people to town.

Doing nothing has a cost. We know what the Town has said no to. We need to find out what the Town will say yes to – something that charges people up.

Questions addressed:

The Litchfield Intermediate School building is no longer part of the Committee's charge, because the School Board needed all the space it had during COVID, and voted to move ahead with a regionalization plan on 6/19/2021 that includes using all three of our schools.

It is not easy to compare the costs of renovations versus building new. There are too many variables.

Adjournment: By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Putnam
Recording Secretary