

Town Facilities Review Committee
October 21, 2021, 7 p.m. Northfield Firehouse
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Vice-Chair Chris Casiello, Dave Carroll, Anne-Monique Haas, John Morosani, Marc Moura, Jeffrey Zullo

Alternates present: Recording Secretary Barbara Putnam

Alternates absent: Burke Gibney

Members Absent: Matt Blasavage, Chairman Sam Olmstead, Bill Deacon,

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

Others present: Carol Powers

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Chris Casiello called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: John Morosani made and Anne-Monique Haas seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as submitted. In discussion, the spelling of Colleen Kincade and Anne-Monique Haas' names were corrected, and a request to identify Colleen's notes as hers, not those of the committee was accepted. All voted in favor to accept the changes and the motion carried.

Appointment of Alternates: Chris appointed Barbara Putnam to serve in place of a member not present.

Public Comment: None

Planning a Community Charrette:

All members are urged to watch the video, "Breuer's Bohemia" which is streaming through the Library's website. https://www.owlibrary.org/breuers_bohemia.aspx for a limited time.

After discussion, the group agreed that:

We should aim to have a community charrette – but call it a "Workshop" - after the middle of January on a Saturday afternoon, at the Bantam Annex/Breuer Building with a tour/open house before noon, lunch, and a workshop to offer the committee's concepts and get the community's input in the afternoon.

We should invite the Arts Council, the Sustainable Litchfield Committee, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and Town employees to participate.

We should let the public see/hear Colleen Kinkade's vision for the uses of the building.

We should present the committee's current consensus:

- That we keep both the Annex and the Town Hall
- That we renovate, not add on to, the Town Hall
- That we keep the Bantam Annex/Breuer Building for use by the Town.
- That we update the envelope (walls, windows, roof) of the Annex before updating the mechanical systems.
- That we take an incremental approach to the renovation and reuse of the building: In particular, that we renovate enough space to house the Town Offices from Town Hall and the Annex temporarily while the Town Hall is being renovated before the Town Hall renovation starts.

We will ask the community for their input on:

- Whether when and where to build a field house and/or community swimming pool and/or dog park and/or arts or theatrical facilities.
- How best to use the underutilized space in the Annex.
- What other uses they envision for the building and sites of the Town Hall and the Bantam Annex/Breuer Building.
- What other issues concerning facilities in town they want us to address.

We agreed that we need a good drawing of each site at the same scale including the existing buildings' layouts on large sheets for the workshop. Marc will look into what Existing Conditions, a company that does such drawings, would be able to do for us, Jeff will talk to John Martin about what information he has on the Town Hall site plan, and Chris will call Dennis McMorrogh about a site plan for the Annex property.

It appears that if we can present a conceptual plan to the Selectmen by the spring, that they will have time to refer it to consultants who can flesh out the costs in time to have the question on the November ballot.

At the next meeting, we will firm up the date and format of the workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Putnam
Recording Secretary