

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 8th, 2014

Committee Members Present: Larry Thomas, Monica Fisler, Larry Stern, Sue Dring, Heidi Krockta, Patrick Mossesso, Thom Freeman, Javed Hussain

Members Absent: Tracey Vasile, John Clebek, Kristin Papianou, Cal Calnan

Others Present: Ginny Coppola, Lorraine Brue, Randy Scollins, Chief O'Leary

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

The meeting was brought to order at 7:10 by Larry T, Vice Chairman.

7:10 PM Review of and voting on meeting minutes from 9/24/14 and 10/1/14—

Edits from 9/24: \$73,000 appropriated from TOWN not company. The town will be reimbursed. The sign bylaw is a subcommittee of the board of selectmen. Use both last initials for Larry T and Larry S in all notes.

Edits from 10/1: On the 2nd page, in the first paragraph, Roger Hill said price difference negligible not nominal. On the 3rd page, Larry T asked if the working group will be disbanding after OPR(not if Adcomm's role will come to an end) Use both last initials for Larry T and Larry S in all notes.

Larry S motioned to accept the minutes seconded by Thom.

Vote: 8/0/0

7:15 PM Discussion on Sign Bylaw—

Thom asked how the new sign bylaws would apply to preexisting signs like school signs. Randy responded that all existing signs are fine but if they are changed and they don't comply with the Bylaw then there would be an issue. Randy further explained that maintenance on preexisting signs is allowed but significant changes would need to go by the Sign Bylaw. Larry T also mentioned that it depends on the sign and that some preexisting signs will have to be changed eventually. He also said that the Sign Bylaws will be modified further before spring. Thom asked if the Sign Bylaw applies to window signs. Randy responded that if the sign is electronic then it falls under bylaw even if it's inside the building.

Larry S asked generally about the evolution of Sign Bylaws. Larry T explained that in zoning, there are vague laws about zoning and signage. This bylaw is meant to make those vague laws applicable. The Sign Bylaws are also a more balanced position between allowing any and all signs and none at all.

Patrick asked a question about the acre division and having advantage if you are over an acre. There was a short discussion on why the having certain types of signs depended on the acres of property ending in Larry T saying that the Sign Bylaw is still a work in progress until spring and there is some time to work out the details. Larry T summarized that the main point of the Sign Bylaws was to give Bill Casbarra a guide when people come to him for approval and permission of signs. Randy added that certain places have too many signs and Ginny said that for that reason, some towns don't allow certain signs at all. Heidi asked if non electronic signs can still be used in place of electronic even with the sign bylaw. Larry T responded that they could be. Heidi asked about the minimum distance between signs and Larry T responded that they had to be at least 500 ft apart. Lorraine added that from a business perspective it was unlikely that signs would be found so close to each other because that would take away from the business.

7:30 PM Review and Discussion of Town Warrant Articles

New Police Officer

Chief O'Leary explained what led up to the current staffing needs. In 2002, the number of personnel went up to 31-32 and at that time there was a slowdown in the economy and the number was brought down to 28. Following that, Chief O'Leary came up with program and chart ending with the conclusion that 35 personnel were required in light of Patriot's Place. However, due to the economy, no increase in staff was made at that time. Now, as a result of the negotiation with the Kraft Group, there is funding available to staff the appropriate amount of personnel.

Larry S asked how the new officer will be assigned and if the new officer has to pay more attention to Patriot's Place. Chief O'Leary responded that the new officer will be assigned as needed. Chief O'Leary, Ginny and Lorraine added the new officer will be an officer for the community and isn't bound to Patriot's Place. Chief O'Leary also added that the additional staffing would help him create preventative youth programs with the high school.

Larry S asked if the zone that Patriot's Place will be receiving more attention. Chief O'Leary replied with the example that there are some less desirable establishments in that area. Working with the management of Patriot's Place to strategize policing during nighttime hospitality would be a useful preventative measure. Chief O'Leary said that establishments are paying for officers to be present to mediate things that arise to cut longer processes if the issue is left alone longer. Thom further added that the call load for police also includes fire calls.

Javed asked how it was determined that an additional officer is needed. Chief O'Leary responded that there was a talk of expansion of Patriot's Place and they looked at other places with establishments like Patriot's Place to work out the number. Chief O'Leary further explained that he sat with the officers from other communities and looked at their call loads. He did an analysis on call volume and the timeframe needed to take care of those calls taking. He also took into consideration the hours an officer works,

including a relief factor to arrive at the number. Lorraine also added that the process was very thorough. At the conclusion of the discussion, Larry T thanked Chief O'Leary for his hard work.

New Town Hall

Heidi asked to further discuss the rejuvenation and renovation options. There was a general agreement that Dick's presentation in the previous meeting was based more on speculation than anything else and could not be relied on as a thorough and complete comparison to renovation. Randy added that there was a thorough debate on this topic yesterday ending in Bill Keagan responding to Dick's email in a point by point, detailed manner.

Larry S brought up the discussion about the two possible locations that were considered. He asked if all considerations had been made before selecting the South Street option. Larry T said that some of the options that Larry S spoke of, like selling the property that will not be built on is speculative because it assumes that the property will be sold. Randy added that there are not many times that we have sold town property. Larry T said that the seniors would never vote to sell the South Street property.

Thom said that the Working Group initially recommended the Payson location but ultimately put the decisions in the hands of the Board of Selectmen. Larry S said that he did not understand how the sentiments surrounding the issue was given highest priority despite the whole process and other points that could have been given priority. In response, Randy said that the issue was going to the ballot box and that the Working Group couldn't agree on a location because there are merits in both places. The Board of Selectmen voted before the issue made it to the public to keep such a divisive issue away from the public.

There was also a short discussion on timing. Larry T and Ginny said that other renovation projects could come up at any time and if the two locations were considered in full again, it might not be possible to renovate the Town Hall anytime soon. Randy further added to this saying that after an in depth analysis, Steve has concluded that the more time passes, the more this project will cost. Randy also pointed out that interest rates don't shift gradually but suddenly towards the higher side so it would cost more if this project's timeline is put off. Larry T echoed the same point.

Javed asked if the technology will be up to date since this building will serve for the next 40-50 years and if there will be room to expand the IT in upcoming years. Randy explained that IT director Erin H and Bill Y are working on moving the data center away from Town Hall to the high school. The entire fiber loop will be redone to make unbreakable loop, instant back up will be a new feature, and more servers can be included in the future. Larry T asked for a tour to be set up to which Randy agreed. Ginny mentioned that this will also put the school property to better use.

Larry T and Randy both pointed out that this placement of IT in a shared space has allowed school and town to be in a good working relationship whereas in other towns, or even in the past in Foxboro, this is not always the case.

There was further discussion on renovation and building new. Larry S stated that at this point, he would vote no on building new. His reasoning is that the answer is not wrong but the approach is wrong in his opinion since there does not seem to be an exhaustive financial comparison. Larry T concluded the discussion saying that there were still many considerations to be made about this issue.

8:30 PM Adjourn

Monica motioned to adjourn motion and Javed seconded.

Vote: 9/0/0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: January 7, 2015

Vote:

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson

Maham Zia

Signature of Secretary