

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, August 17, 2010 – 6:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Joe Byk, Barbara Miller, Elizabeth Thomas

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Jeff King, Nicole MacStay

Chair Byk welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Armory Update

Jeff King, Recreation Department Director, began by saying that he would not repeat the update the Board received in their packets, but said that they have been getting a lot of questions about the status of the Armory. Since acquiring the Armory property some renovations have started, and the Food Pantry has already relocated and is now occupying 10% of the space in the main building. Since he and Ms. Kriebel last appeared before the Board, they have acquired approximately \$10,000 worth of equipment for the kitchen and general use with the \$33,000 in grant money received from the Goyette Foundation for that purpose. The next step is to establish what needs to be done to open the doors. Issues of life safety, handicap accessibility, building codes need to be addressed. A request for qualifications has been issued, and four proposals have been received from architects. Those qualifications are being reviewed, and they plan to accept a firm that can work with the Town and move forward in the process to fully utilize the building.

Ms. Miller asked if there is money left in the grant to pay for the engineering study. **Mr. King** said that there is some money left, and the Town has also set aside \$20,000 for heat and utilities which was not spent last winter when the building was mothballed. He added that the community is getting excited about the project; two pianos have been donated, and there are a couple more that are being offered as donations. An air hockey table has also been donated, the Monadnock Country Club has donated their old dishes, and other folks have expressed an interest in donating office equipment. Beyond the acquisition of those items, the larger story is that people are interested in helping, which he thinks is says that they see the potential of what the community center can be.

Mr. King went on to say that they are working to come up with an estimate of what it would take to operate the building seven days a week, which they approximate will require an \$80,000 budget. He anticipates that this will be funded through program revenue, the sale of resident and non-resident memberships, rental of the facility to clubs, organizations and private parties. There is also a credit of roughly 10% for the Food Pantry overhead which is not operated by the Recreation Department, and he hopes that that funding will come from elsewhere.

Chair Byk asked **Mr. King** if the Town has any history of selling memberships. **Mr. King** said that Peterborough's Recreation Department hasn't done it, but when he worked in Marblehead they raised revenue for their new community center by selling memberships. He said that it requires ingenuity to come up with a membership package that will appeal to people, and it could include things like discounts and priority rentals. He and the Recreation Committee are looking at this as a regional program, and so want to include the non-resident memberships as well. It will require a public education campaign.

Chair Byk said that regarding expenses, there hasn't been an increase in staff since he has been on the Board, but there is an increase in the staffing line of \$37,000; he asked how that number was arrived at. **Mr. King** said that it includes custodial staff, two part time positions, and a portion of his and the program coordinator's salary. **Ms. Miller** noted that at one time they had talked about a "Friends of the Community Center" organizations. **Mr. King** said that there has been some interest in that, and that it would involve establishing a 501C:3. That group's mission would be to raise funds, and they hope to have it established in the near future. **Chair Byk** asked, worst case scenario, what would be the back up plan if they couldn't sell the memberships. **Mr. King** said that at this time they do not have one. The plan that they are presenting tonight is a rough estimate of what they think that they can do, assuming a full operation. He said that they intend to begin on a small scale and get a feel of what can and cannot be done. If they find that they cannot support a full occupation, they can scale it back. At first he does not anticipate having the two part time counter staff, but as programs get more successful, he intends to make sure that those programs, the staff and the building are self supporting.

Chair Byk said that they have a projected \$80,000 in expenses and revenue, and asked **Ms. Brenner** if when the budget process begins next year and the revenue is only \$30,000, what will happen. **Ms. Brenner** replied that all expenses will go through the revolving fund, which is self supporting. **Mr. King** and the Recreation Committee have done a great job with self-supporting scenarios with other recreation programs, and this operation will not be tax funded. **Ms. Kriebel** reiterated that these numbers are draft. The number they need now is the one from the architect. If that number is unreasonable, then there will be another discussion entirely. **Ms. Brenner** said that she wanted to assure the Board that the armory, with the exception of the food pantry, will be self-supporting. She added that this proposal will also reduce the tax-supported portion of the Recreation budget by shifting some of the administration expenses to the revolving fund.

Mr. Byk asked if there were any questions or comments. **Bill Ellerkamp** asked if what people will get for their memberships will be identified. **Mr. King** said that it is too early in the process, and what they have presented tonight is just a guess. The first step is to find out what needs to be done to open the building.

Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing – New England Products

Rebecka Bollok of Southwest Regional Planning Commission explained that this is a mid-grant public hearing. In April, due to the downturn in the economy, it was decided to decrease the grant amount to \$150,000 which lowered the job requirement to eight new jobs created through the project. The project is moving towards closeout in December of 2010. **Chair Byk** said that closeout means that the money has been paid, the jobs have been created, and this closes the administrative process. **Ms. Bollok** said that was correct. **Chair Byk** asked if there were any questions or comments from those in attendance. **Ms. Bollok** added that the Town has \$2,000 to use towards the audit. **Ms. Brenner** said that she will follow up on those funds. Hearing no other questions or comments, **Chair Byk** closed the public hearing.

Pumper Truck Bid Opening

Chief Lenox reported that the Peterborough Fire and Rescue received four bids from three companies. The bids were opened and read out loud:

Stuphen Company - \$551,883.43

KME Corporation - \$526,882

KME Corporation - \$549,610

Emergency One Vehicles - \$539,854

Chair Byk asked if any of these companies were local. **Chief Lenox** said that Emergency One is the closest, located in North Attleboro. **Ms. Miller** asked why there were two bids from KME. **Deputy Rodenheiser** said that they bid the equivalents of their Cadillac and Ford models. **Chief Lenox** asked the Board if they could review the quotes in detail and return to the Board with their recommendation at their September meeting; the Board agreed.

Main Street Bridge

Chair Byk explained that the next item on the agenda is a discussion of the Main Street bridge project during which Mr. Bartlett will give his and the engineer's recommendations for the Board's decision to recommend to the Department of Transportation. The Board will listen to that, and then to Peter Robinson who asked to present an idea for a bridge on Summer Street. He said after both presentations have been made the Board will accept comments, and then the Board will vote on their ultimate recommendations to DOT. He asked all in attendance to keep in mind that Mr. Robinson is just outlining a new proposal, and the Board is not anywhere near ready to having a public hearing on his suggestion, so he will limit that discussion to no more than fifteen minutes. He added that there will be plenty of time for public discussion at later dates.

Mr. Bartlett then began his review of the project, meetings and hearings to date. He explained that in the DOT's comments on the intersection, they expressed the need to go forward to answer the technical, historical and environmental questions of the roundabout at that intersection; their preference is to move forward with the modified roundabout. In regards to the bridge, he, the engineers, the DOT and the Board have looked at two different concepts; and he and the design team have recommended going forward with the cast in place rigid frame. The bridge cannot be rehabilitated to meet the additional weight required, and the bridge will be reconstructed to support today's legal limits. The team recommends Concept Two for the intersection, the modified roundabout.

In regards to the construction process and access to downtown, **Mr. Bartlett** said that the team has put forward two concepts, one is for a temporary bridge, and the other is phased construction of the bridge. There are pros and cons to both options: the impact of the temporary bridge is significant to the river, whereas the phased approach creates a bridge that is wider than is absolutely necessary, though it does provide space for future maintenance. If we go forward with the roundabout, we will reduce the lanes from three to two, and will have a travel way as well as a large sidewalk space. It provides us with a possible destination location on the bridge; the views on the bridge looking south are very nice. **Mr. Bartlett** then summarized the team's recommendations: a modified roundabout at the intersection, rigid frame, cast in place construction, and a phased construction process.

Mr. Robinson then spoke, saying that he is proposing a new bridge which would be built before the beginning of construction on the Main Street bridge, which would allow the Main Street bridge to be closed during construction, though he thinks a pedestrian walkway should be considered. The location he proposed is across Concord Street from Dr. Divine's office, and is 1.4 acres of bank owned property currently listed for \$128,000. He said that he has proposed this location because the land is available, there is good visibility to the north and the south, the river is at one of its narrowest points, and it would affect the least number of people on Summer Street. He said that he has considered a number of concerns and advantages. In regards to the concerns, there would be an

increase in traffic on Summer Street between the new bridge and downtown. Traffic will also increase at the intersection of Main Street and Summer Street, and it would involve additional costs.

The advantages of the proposal are many; emergency services will have a much quicker access to the schools and hospital. Access is increased to the downtown during construction. There would be reduced detours up Parmalee Drive and Old Street Road. It would allow the reconstruction of the Main Street bridge with a minimum of interruption, and would quiet traffic on Concord Street. The need for a temporary bridge would be eliminated, and we could apply that money to a permanent structure that will be of long term use. It increases the access to Peterborough, and allows for an expanded flexibility for future generations.

Mr. Robinson continued, noting that bond rates are now at their lowest, and could be locked in, and there may be some construction cost savings by awarding two bridges. And when the bridge needs to be reconstructed in seventy years, the town will not have to meet again to try and develop a new plan. He also noted that at some point in the future the Grove Street bridge will need to be reconstructed, and by adding a new bridge, some of the burden of access to the downtown is alleviated. **Mr. Robinson** concluded his comments by saying that Peterborough is a center for banking, legal, medical, professional and commercial services for the surrounding areas, and continued access is important.

Chair Byk asked if there were any questions or comments. **Anne Marie Irwin** said that she thinks this is a great investment of energy and concern; everyone is thinking hard about the town and alternatives, and though she does not know if it will work, she thanked Mr. Robinson for spending the time. **Dick Fitzgerald** asked if Mr. Robinson's plan would still include a rotary or stop lights; **Mr. Robinson** said that he will not take a position on those questions. **John Paterson** said that it struck him that this proposal changes the dynamics of the Main Street bridge project, which wouldn't require either a temporary bridge or phased construction. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the potential of a north crossing would narrow the focus of the work needed at the Main Street Bridge site, but that decision would have to be made relatively soon. The decision before the Board at this stage has nothing to do with how wide the bridge is; at this time the design team is more concerned with the span. **Mr. Bartlett** said that he personally thinks that an additional crossing of the river has value, but that the town needs to go through a process that identifies the best place for a crossing, the cost, and then put it to the voters.

Steve Mahoney asked what is the combined cost of the Main Street bridge with a temporary bridge. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the temporary bridge would be \$500,000 more, and a total of \$3.25 million. The phased construction would cost \$4 million in total. **David Simpson** asked if Mr. Bartlett could comment on the Transcript Dam, and how it could affect construction if it is breached. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the town needs to look at the dam and either fix it or breach it. If it is breached it should be done before construction so that there is less water to deal with during construction. That decision is one of the parallel tracts with the bridge. Again, the town needs to get some public process, and input.

Fran Chapman said that this project can't be done without careful consideration of downtown Peterborough; those people will be in jeopardy. This will be difficult, no matter what decision is made. He said that he likes all these ideas, but does not have the technical knowledge that **Mr. Bartlett** has, and we are blessed to have him. He said that the temporary solution will be aggravating, but we are not just building a bridge.

Jenny Dilly said that she would first like to thank Mr. Robinson for thinking outside of the box, but she respectfully disagreed with his proposal. She said that her house is two houses down from the proposed location of the north crossing, and she does not want a bridge in her back yard. She said that the neighborhood is zoned rural and family, and this would change the character of the neighborhood. She said that she agrees that there needs to be a way to keep the businesses operational, and Grove Street, Hunt Road and Main Street to the west are all available. She said that she believes that a bridge in that location will impact her family's lifestyle, and that there is already a big increase in traffic when events at the Peterborough Players lets out. She thought this would change the color of the neighborhood.

Andrew Dunbar, who also lives on Summer Street said that they [the neighbors] have worked hard to maintain the neighborhood, which he said is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Peterborough. He said that there are other ways of handling traffic to the downtown. He said that he has taken many notes, and that what Mr. Robinson has proposed will have major impact. He said that if this was Peter's neighborhood he would not take this position. He said that the historic neighborhoods have as much value as commerce, and this would encourage more traffic in the downtown, more pollution, and make it more difficult to move around downtown.

Ken Christian said that he has lived on Concord Street for roughly four decades, and they have borne the brunt of the traffic forever, and he thinks that it is fair to share the burden. He said that he is in favor of the project, that it would give fire and ambulance an alternate route, and makes a lot of sense. **Gordon Kemp** said that in going forward with Peter's plan, a few questions will need to be addressed. He wondered if Municipal Bridge Aid is for repairing and replacing red list bridges, and perhaps it couldn't be applied to a new bridge. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the municipal bridge aid is for replacing red list bridges, and he did not know what funding is available for new bridges. Pending the outcome of the meeting, that would be one of the first things to nail down.

Leandra MacDonald said that if this does go forward, she would like to invite Mr. Robinson to the Planning Board. **Loretta Laurenitis** said that she appreciates what Mr. Robinson has done here, and that she thinks that it would be nice to have another route into town. She also wondered if there was some way the Planning Board could be involved in the process, especially in regards to the oval, which she has great reservations about. She said that land use boards have to do regional notification, and putting in an oval would affect towns like Bennington and Frankestown, and asked if there had been any attempt to engage them. **Chair Byk** said that that cannot be done until the Board makes a decision. He then said that there are two traffic control options and three bridge options before the Board. The Board's recommendation will go to DOT, and they decide if they accept or reject the Board's recommendations. Then the town will bring them preliminary engineering and cost estimates, and go back and ask them for funding. After that the town then goes forward with the real engineering and context sensitive solutions meetings, the results of which will be incorporated into the engineering process. He said that none of this can happen until the Board takes the next step, but they are thinking about everything that has been raised tonight.

Mose Olenik said that she would like to speak to the issue of the roundabout, and if that is the recommendation the Board is going forward with, she is opposed as a resident of 12 Pine Street, because it would change the character of the entry to the town. **Chair Byk** asked if she had seen the postcard dated before 1938 which showed the rotary that had originally existed at that location; **Ms. Olenik** said that she had not. She then asked if the Board needs the recommendation from Historic Resources. **Mr. Bartlett** said that the way he understands the process, we do not need a final recommendation from Historic or Cultural Resources at this time because they need a proposal

from the town before they give their recommendations. **Chair Byk** announced that Mr. Robinson will be giving multiple presentations of his proposal.

Motion:

Chair Byk made a motion to recommend a rigid frame cast in place bridge, phased construction process and modified roundabout at the intersection to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation; **Ms. Thomas** seconded.

Vote:

Chair Byk, Ms. Thomas and **Ms. Miller** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Review and Approval of Minutes of May 18th, June 8th, June 15th and June 29th, 2010

Motion:

Ms. Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes; **Ms. Miller** seconded.

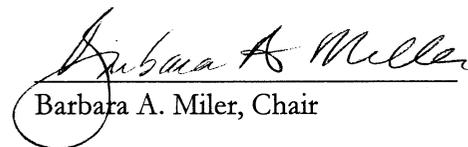
Vote:

Ms. Thomas, Ms. Miller and **Chair Byk** voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

As there was no further business, **Mr. Byk** made a motion to adjourn; **Ms. Thomas** seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miler, Chair


Joe Byk

Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1.