

**MINUTES**

**Master Plan Steering Committee**

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH  
Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – 5:45 p.m.  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Members Present:** Sue Chollet, Mose Olenik, James Kelly, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, and Rick Monahon

**Staff Present:** Carol Ogilvie, Director and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:53 p.m.

**Statement from the Chair**

None

**Discussion with Rodney Bartlett on the Public Works Facilities**

Mr. Bartlett thanked the members for having him. He noted he would quickly go through over the project and updates as they have happened. He said “we are talking about the big picture” in terms of a complete facility.

He began with an update on the Highway Garage. He noted a 3000 gallon diesel storage tank had been installed on site, “Crotched Mountain was selling the tank which had never been used” he said adding “it has been skid mounted, pressure tested and certified.” He concluded the purchase was timely in that winter was on the way (increased demand from plow trucks) and the demand for diesel has gone up with the Ambulance Transfer Program.

Mr. Bartlett mentioned the ongoing roof problems and the unexpected amount of storage the Armory (ancillary building) has provided. “We store winter things in the summer and vice versa, it has worked out great for cold storage there is no heat and no septic but it does have electricity” he said.

Moving on to Buildings & Grounds Mr. Bartlett noted “not a lot of changes here, it mostly maintenance driven.” He noted the Town House cupola and trim was scheduled to be painted in the spring. He noted the installation of industrial rain gutters and heat tape had just been completed “so hopefully snow build up at the eaves should not be a problem.”

Mr. Bartlett moved on to Utilities noting “the obvious change here is that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is complete. “It has been on-line since March and we took full ownership in June” he said. He told the members the number of Utility workers had been reduced from 6 to 3 employees managed by Ron Dubois, the DPW Utility Supervisor. “That phase has worked out really well” he said.

Mr. Monahan asked if there would be further reductions in the work force with greater automation of equipment. Mr. Bartlett replied “that is two-fold” noting two of the employee went to work for Woodward and Curran “as we are not fully licensed or certified to run the plant” and “the remaining three positions in Utilities “back up the Highway guys (flushing hydrants, water breaks etc.) A brief discussion about financial savings followed with Mr. Bartlett noting “there has been a significant cost reduction but there are also new expenses.”

Mr. Bartlett noted Phase II of the project was to close out the Lagoons. Mr. Bartlett also noted the site design for a new garage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He described the USDA Rural Development grant and its terms. He noted the garage would be an equipment storage building with eight bays. He noted it would be located in the industrial lagoon location where there is an activity and use restriction and must be capped (not available for an athletic field). “It is a perfect location for this type of building:” he said.

Ms. Chollet asked if the garage might be available for truck storage for the Highway Department use with Mr. Bartlett replying “specifically it is for the Wastewater Treatment Facility as the money was specific to that” but added “we have merged the Utility and Highway Departments.” The members briefly discussed the time frame involved with programming of the closure of the lagoon and the building design. Mr. Bartlett noted “everyone will be at the same site; a lot of good things can come from that.”

Ms. Chollet asked if the Highway garage were abandoned “is it reusable?” A brief discussion about the future of the Evans Flats site followed, it was noted by Mr. Bartlett that “we are eventually going to lose the Armory equipment building.” Mr. Kelly mentioned several potential mixed use options for the Evans Flats site. The traffic on Elm Street was also briefly discussed with Mr. Bartlett noting a *Safe Route to School* grant that may be used to improve the Main, Union, High, Elm and Vine Street intersection.

Mr. Kelly asked about the time frame involved with Ms. Ogilvie replying “there is no statutory time line; it can be five, ten and even sometimes twenty years out.” Ms. Chollet noted “but it is constantly updated, adding new information. It is an ongoing process.” Mr. Bartlett explained the process of closing the lagoons and the “making” of an athletic field. Ms. Chollet asked “who leads the discussion in the context of this chapter?” Mr. Bartlett replied “the Town will take the lead.” Mr. Monahan asked if there would be a facilities planning committee with a brief discussion including the time lines following. Mr. Bartlett reiterated “the lagoons will be closed by 2014, ready for *something* in 2015, an athletic field (if funded) in 2016. He noted the garage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was scheduled for 2014 (the same year the discussion about the present Highway location and the loss of the Armory Maintenance Building occurs). He mentioned the grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the process of selecting consultants to consider the establishment of an Arts Center in Peterborough was underway. Ms. Chollet asked if Police and Fire would be included in the complex with Ms. Bartlett replying “there are lots of options out there, At this point getting the community engaged is the right thing to do right now.”

Ms. Olenik noted “it would be nice if it all came together as one thing.” Mr. Kelly again asked about the Elm Street building with Mr. Bartlett reviewing what would be taken with the Department adding “leaving what is there, there, nothing new.”

A brief discussion about the draft chapter, the public process and the future of the Highway building at Evans Flats followed. One member asked specifically about the establishment of an arts center in town. Mr. Bartlett gave the members a brief review of what had been accomplished and an update of the RFQs, responses, and pending interviews for a consultant. Mr. Bartlett concluded with “it is a public process to determine what the people of Peterborough and the region think about an Arts Center, and what that Center should be.” He emphasized *public process* stating “when the information is not there the voids will be filled with the rumors that fit them.” Ms. Olenik thanked Mr. Bartlett for coming in with Mr. Bartlett replying “it all comes together in the end.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton  
Administrative Assistant