

NEW HAVEN TRAIN DEPOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes From Thursday, April 15, 2021

Attendees:

Aaron Brown, Steve Dupoise, Florian Oberhuber, John Van Hoesen, Tim Bouton, Ron Kilburn, Doug McKain, Ruth Penfield, Bev Landon, Candy Davidson, Bernie Noble, Larry Maier, David Spencer, Andy Davidson, Susan Smiley.

John called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM via Zoom. He briefly described the purpose of the meeting and opened the floor up to discussion.

Discussion

- Steve Dupoise talked to Steve Spencer, a railway consultant, that in other communities Amtrak has slowed down and suggested that New Haven could be a stop.
- Steve Dupoise received an email from a building mover from Pennsylvania
- Steve indicated there is a town-wide vote coming up in July, so possibly add a straw pole for town input from the town? Looking for input into best practices.
- Steve put out stakes on the Memorial Park and would like to do the same north of the Town Office to help people visualize the sites.
- Bev Landon shared that her son hasn't seen a two-story brick depot, meaning it is a unique structure. Cost to the town would be quite minimal if the building is moved north of the Town Office and can readily access water/septic.
- David Spencer, Bernie Noble, Candy Davidson, and Tim Bouton offered support for keeping the Depot in New Haven Junction. Doug McKain expressed initial excitement about the location of Depot near the center of town for access to the bike route, but indicated the junction was likely best.
- Multiple suggestions for making sure the move and possible sites get announced in the upcoming newsletter. Tim Bouton suggested a banner stating "Moving Soon - For More Info..."
- Tim also stated a need for long-term maintenance of the building. Steve indicated he hoped there was a tenant that could help offset costs or build it into the town budget.
- Florian Oberhuber asked about the need for a timeline; Steve responded that the timeline will be developed by Historic Preservation.
- Candy Davidson expressed concerns about putting Depot on the park.
- State guidelines suggest it may be possible to have an in-person public forum in July.

Possible Siting Options

- Three 'top' sites are at Memorial Park, north of the Town Office, and intersection of RT 7 & 17.
- Need to address water/sewer at all three sites.
- Need to clarify sight line distances, and explore zoning in depth

Next Steps

- Steve will reach out to Laura Trieschmann about developing a possible project timeline.
- John will create a 2' x 3' poster for each site to share with the public.
- John will coordinate with Steve to schedule and set an agenda for the next meeting.

With no other comments, John closed the meeting at 5:10 PM.