

NEW HAVEN TRAIN DEPOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes From Thursday, May 6, 2021

Attendees:

David Spencer, Steve Dupoise, Florian Oberhuber, Larry Maier, Aaron Brown, Taborri Bruhl, Laura Trieschmann, Jamie Duggan, John Van Hoesen, Kathleen Whitcomb Barrett, Tim Bouton, John Roleau, Candy Davidson.

John called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM via Zoom and opened the floor up to Steve to share a summary of the conversations he has had over the last week.

Discussion

- Steve shared that there are concerns about the Rt7/Rt17 junction possibly being a Brownfield site. Meeting with Trish Coppolino at VT DEC on 5/6/21 indicated there was funding for cleanup (if the town owned the land) but that timing made moving this to site complicated. There was never a Phase 1 completed for this site, which would be needed to protect town from liability.
- The grant application to Northern Borders will proceed assuming the building will be moved to the parcel north of the Town Office. However, Steve will continue exploring the Junction as an option with the Selectboard and if that site becomes a reality, the town could submit an amendment request to Northern Borders to change the location.
- Either way, Steve indicated that it's still probably a good idea to clean up the Junction site to improve the usability of that location moving forward. There would be some cost to the town for this, including purchasing and going an initial assessment. However, this is a separate issue for the Selectboard to consider.
- Larry asked whether there was any sense of what kind of issues might exist at the junction site, and Laura stated that is what the Phase 1 assessment will determine. However, Trish Coppolino did indicate a Phase 2 assessment would likely be needed.
- Laura shared that Governor Scott is aware of this building and the move, and that he has the final decision on where the building would be sited. And cautioned that although it's possible to submit an amendment, she wouldn't want to risk any funding source by overcomplicating the siting process.
- Laura also stated it is probably a good idea to enroll in the BRELLA program to begin the assessment process, regardless of who owns it so the community understands any potential risk. The town may need to expend \$3-4K for this initial assessment.
- Jamie shared three proposals for moving estimates, that range between \$415K-\$470 for the Junction site and \$440K-\$600K for the site north of the Town office. May have to move lines or shrink the building a little depending on the move.
- John conveyed concern about removing a commercial property from the town tax roll.
- Laura stated that Jamie has keys to the building and is hoping to organize a site visit on 5/13 at 3:00PM. And re-stated that Historic Preservation has historical items they will include with the building and an historical marker.

Next Steps

- DEC will submit the Northern Borders Regional Commission grant by May 14th
- Need to identify a project manager for moving the project forward, Steve stated that Trini indicated that there may be AOT funds to support this. May need to get recommendation from AOT so it's an outside contractor.
- Steve will explore submitting an application to the BRELLA program after meeting with the Selectboard.

With no other comments, John closed the meeting at 4:55 PM.