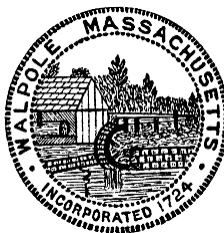


Members

Richard Pilla, Chair
Cliff Barnes, Vice Chair
Christine Cochrane, Secretary
Ron Fucile
Beth Pelick
Mark Trudell
Roger Turner



Town Hall Re-Use Committee

Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081

<http://www.walpole-ma.gov/town-hall-re-use-committee>

A meeting of the Walpole Town Hall Re-Use Committee was held on June 13, 2017 in the Pinnacle Room of the Walpole Public Library.

The following members were in attendance:

Richard Pilla, Chair
Cliff Barnes, Vice Chair
Christine Cochrane, Secretary
Ron Fucile
Roger Turner
Mark Trudell(6:25)

The following guests were in attendance:

Thomas Gregory, Assistant Town Administrator
Roger Colp
Melissa Gehman
Sam Obar
Nancy Dayian
Willa Bandler
George Ramson
Philip Dubois
James Langmead
Laura Whelan Bratsis
Susan Cosman
Luis Vargas

Richard Pilla called the meeting to order at 6:17pm with an introduction.

- This is the first forum and there will be more coming and thanked those in attendance for coming

Roger Turner - Slide presentation of Historical Overview

Open Forum with Citizen's Ideas/Comments

Willa Bandler

- Restore to an event space for public use
- Open second floor up, Restore stairs and reopen the front main entrance for access
- Bus Shelter on corner

Laura Whelan Bratsis

- New RTM - has a FaceBook Page to keep her constituents informed
- Gorgeous Building - feel badly it has been neglected
- Space should be used for functions that can be rented out
- Upscale Gala Events
- Town has already lost The Bird Mansion, Bird Hall, Clock Tower - do not want to see the same thing happen to Old Town Hall
- Loves this Historic Building
- Convert back to the town hall

George Ramson

- Old Town Hall is the identity of Walpole
- Need to keep the building
- Find major funds to update and restore
- Need to save the building first and then figure out the use
- Points out the town sold the old library and it did not have parking but it is functioning now

Nancy Dayian

- Restore top floor hall - would be a lot of opportunity for events - looks like a ballroom
- Bed and Breakfast
- Convention Center with rooms to stay in
- Gallery - Mini Museum
- Mixed use would be best

Susan Cosman

- Preserve icon of our town
- Concerned about the Civil War Plaques
- Meeting Space - the new library has been great but it is still challenging to find meeting room space

Ron Fucile

- Meeting Space
- Annex to Town Hall
- Home for Historical Society and Historical Commission - these two groups should function more closely
- Historic items could be displayed in a more feasible way

- If private party occupying - would be best as a dentist, lawyer

Sam Obar

- Every idea is going to come down to funding
- Sell to a private party with deep deed restrictions

Luis Vargas

- Downtown is lacking people, parking and small businesses

Philip Dubois

- Restaurant would not work - No parking

Willa Bandler

- Restaurant not a good use - Fire hazard

Mr. Pilla

- A Defined Parking Program with Management is needed for the entire downtown area
- There are ways to address accessibility
- Establish A Friends of Old Town Hall - demonstrate involvement of townspeople
- Unless the town buys in - not going to go any where
- ReUse Committee has set a goal to present a Preliminary Report to the BOS and Fall TM in the Fall of 2017
- Final Report ready in the first quarter of 2018
- ADA - a lot of updates need to be done
- No small undertaking
- Need to identify the most viable use and attach a number to it
- Has to be financially feasible
- Need funding mechanism
- Purpose of this committee is to give the town options

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm