

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 August 15, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Executive Conference Room in Town Hall.

The following members were in attendance:

Richard Pilla, Chair
Cliff Barnes, Vice Chair
Ron Fucile
Mark Trudell

The following member was not in attendance:

Beth Pelick
Christine Cochrane, Secretary
Roger Turner

The following guests were in attendance:

Jeremiah Huson, Associate AIA, AWS
Willa Bandler

Richard Pilla called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Review and Vote to approve Minutes of July 18th Meeting

Ron Fucile makes motion to accept and approve the minutes of 7/18/17. Cliff Barnes seconds the motion. **The motion is approved 4-0-0.**

Mr. Pilla welcomed architect Jeremiah B. Huson, Associate AIA, AWS Blacksmith / Owner ForgeWorks, Walpole, MA, who had graciously volunteered to do “existing conditions” plans of Old Town Hall. Mr. Huson has made three site visits to the property to take measurements and has completed a significant amount of the work. Mr. Huson expects his work to be completed by the next Re-use Committee meeting in September.

Mr. Huson reviewed the plans with the Committee members and several interesting items were brought to its attention. Once the existing conditions plans are completed, the Committee will prepare a written summary to go along with the plans, and which will be one of the section in the Committee’s final report. With the completion of this work, the information gathered will be an important part in helping to guide the Committee in determining the feasibility of potential uses for the building. As Mr. Huson briefed the Committee on his initial findings and certain discoveries, Mr. Fucile provided valuable context and historical perspective which were helpful to the Committee to better understand various aspects of the building.

There was some discussion as to whether the Town had the CAD file for the plans that were drawn by Architect Philip S. Winsor back in January of 2000. Mr. Fucile informed the group that Mr. Winsor had relocated to another area of the country. After the meeting, Mr. Pilla and Mr. Huson along with Ms. Bandler, went to the Engineering Department to see whether it had a copy of the CAD file, but it did not.

The group also discussed the “Preservation Easement” and what impact it might have on any proposed physical improvements to the building. Ms. Bandler provided some good insight on the subject of preservation easements. Nothing conclusive was established and it was suggested that a discussion with Mr. Chris Skelly of the Massachusetts Historical Commission would be helpful on knowing exactly what options exist, a clear understanding of which would be most helpful once the Committee begins the process of drawing its conclusions which will be incorporated into its final report.

Next Steps:

- Next meeting with the EDC on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 5:00-6:30 PM at EDC meeting room in Town Hall. This meeting would be the Committee’s second public forum, this time to hear from the business community and in particular the Downtown merchants and property owners, as well as the EDC itself.

Mr. Trudell makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barnes seconds the motion. **The motion is approved 4-0-0**, and the meeting is adjourned at 7:37 PM.