

Fire Station Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Select Board Meeting Room

Members Present:

Dawn Rand, Chair
Mitch Cohen, Vice Chair
Diana Nicklaus, Absent
David Parenti, Fire Chief
Daniel Brillhart, Fire Captain
John Rapa, Financial Planning Committee
Tom Reardon, Citizen-at-Large

Others Present:

Neal Aspesi, Deputy Chief
Amy Dunlap, HKT
Janet Slemenda, HKT
Marc Theiss, HKT
Todd Ashford, Colliers
Shawn Thompson, Facilities Manager

6:30 p.m. – Meeting Called to Order

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

We will pass over the minutes until the next scheduled meeting.

2. HKT DESIGN UPDATES

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap discuss the planned design updates, the schedule for the project and the feedback received from the community and the design review committee. Updated site design for parking and planting:

A. Roadways, parking area materials

a. Stop Sign

b. Granite Curbing

- Apron to support the apparatus
- Concrete sidewalks
- Storm water treatment
- Grading
- Retaining wall- delegated design is ongoing
- Transformer/generator, dumpster location and enclosure protection

B. Plantings

- Maintain the line of site
- Work with the retaining wall design

C. Site Elements

- Flagpole, lighting, benches, signage, storm water treatment, dumpster containment
- Incorporate snow storage

D. Fire department on east side and administration on the west side of building

SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR APPROVAL

The committee discusses the design and color scheme of the fire station, with most members preferring the more subtle, traditional brick color scheme that matches the old Town hall. A comment about adding additional arches over every door, the committee decided it was too busy and Chief Parenti stated that we have to keep cost in mind with operational readiness most important.

A. Next Steps

- Cost estimate, presented at the February 28th meeting
- Committee meetings
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board
- Community information meeting #3

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment period, residents express concerns about the size of the building, the height of the retaining wall, and the potential for increased cost. The committee responds by explaining the operational necessities and justification for the current design.

Chief Parenti addresses concerns about the need for a hose drying tower, explaining that it serves as a training tower and is necessary for operational reasons. He addressed a question about rotating the building 90 degrees, and explained that this would create additional problems, including an extra turn for trucks, a wider footprint, and a main entrance that doesn't face the street.

Mitch Cohen discussed the feasibility of the current site for the fire station, noting that the town meeting has approved this location and changing it would incur significant costs and delays. He suggested reducing the number of parking spaces to save money and shrink the size of the wall, while Chief Parenti emphasizes the importance of having enough parking as per the master plan.

Janet Slemenda discussed the possibility of adding more parking near the bank, but note that it could lead to operational issues and increased cost due to rising grades.

Amy Dunlap explains the process of delegated design for the retaining wall, noting that the actual design won't take place until after the bid is awarded and a contractor is selected.

Chief Parenti addressed the question if the department had visited other stations to see what worked or things they wish they had done. He stated a few members did tour six stations at the start of this project and storage was the once common wish.

4. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED VIA OUR WEBPAGE

There were questions sent in that were addressed in previous meetings the committee has had. Many of the questions sent in and asked can be viewed on our webpage. You can go to NB-FireStation.org. where questions on the 2019 conceptual design, sloping hill compared to current retaining wall, the clock/training tower, basement meeting room, bi-fold doors, blasting issues, snow removal, green space and arches have been

discussed in previous meetings. Chief Parenti suggested going back and watching the meetings, which will answer many questions you may have.

4. MARKETING

John Rapa suggests strategies for increasing public awareness of the project, including social media, signage, and public relations efforts. In the fall we have Applefest, or Memorial Day parade, Big Truck Day, giving more visibility to what's going on for broad awareness. Chief Parenti mentions that signs have been designed and will be installed soon.

The committee approves supplemental services including geotechnical engineering, a solar PV study, a geothermal study, and necessary permits.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dawn Rand suggests inviting the Town Administrator Tim McInerney to a future meeting to explain the financing process for the project, including the Proposition 2.5 override.

Chief Parenti proposed presenting a status update on the project at Town meeting, to which the committee agrees.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Dawn Rand moved the committee vote to adjourn the meeting: Chief Parenti seconded the motion: the roll call was taken as following:

Brillhart	"aye"
Cohen	"aye"
Nicklaus	"aye"
Parenti	"aye"
Reardon	"aye"
Rand	"aye"
Rapa	'aye"

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Thompson
Administrative Assistant