

Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the Committee. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Whitcomb Hall Committee
September 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present Nancy Carlson (Chair), Pete Johnson, Gail Wood, Jerry Bussiere, Lee Dunham, Ann Bedaw, and Marion Bedard. Also present Town Administrator Michael Branley, Planning & Community Director Sara Carbonneau, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jasmin, interested citizen/resident Michael Gomarlo, and Ethan Pinney (from Pinney Plumbing & Heating). Meeting commenced at 3:30 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall.

Carlson stated that she had planned on re-capping the August 29th BBQ, but noted that the presence of others at the meeting who were not normally in attendance. Johnson stated that he would like to revisit the proposed heating system for the building and invited Mike Gomarlo and Ethan Pinney to attend. Carlson stated that the proposed work to be done on the building has been discussed for approximately 4 to 6 months, the RFP was issued, bids were received, and the Board of Selectmen made a decision to award the bid. Carlson felt it was very late in the game to be suggesting changes to the proposed scope of work. Carlson then turned the floor over to Ethan Pinney and Mike Gomarlo.

Gomarlo stated that he was concerned about the cost of the proposed system. Gomarlo also stated that he had spoken with Gary Phippard who felt that the proposed heating system was not in the best interests of the community vis-à-vis cost, maintenance, and reliability. Pinney reviewed his concerns regarding the proposed pellet boiler. His concerns included availability of pellets, lack of locally obtained replacement parts, they are expensive to install, require “a lot more maintenance,” pellet storage constraints, etc.

Motion by Johnson to “look at all the avenues, and look at all the options.” Carbonneau asked what he meant specifically by looking at all the avenues and all the options. Johnson revised his motion to state that the Committee wished for the Board of Selectmen to issue a RFP for an oil boiler with hot water radiators and to have the Board of Selectmen withdraw the contract to Cheshire Builders regarding the heating system. Seconded by Wood. Vote: All in Johnson, Wood, Dunham, Bussiere, Bedaw, and Bedard. Opposed: Carlson. Motion passed. Carlson noted that this action may very likely delay the project and increase overall costs.

A recap of the BBQ event was provided by Carbonneau, noting that slightly over \$3,000.00 was raised by the event. She reminded members that had expenses to submit these to her a.s.a.p.

Carlson noted that a \$500.00 donation was received from Market Basket.

Wood stated that John Traynor has a commercial stove that he may be willing to donate. No further details were provided.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Sara Carbonneau,
Director of Planning & Community Development

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