

Town Hall Study Committee Minutes May 22, 2003

Present: Ken Knowlton, Norma Patten, Linda Frawley, Jeff Marden, Nikki Wheeler and David Morse

Ken Knowlton began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Discussion began with reviewing the town's request for \$750K in renovations to the existing town hall. The committee discussed how the renovations and cost were arrived at. No formal engineering or cost estimates were made and that the figure was a rough estimate.

Ken then moved on to the Gale School option. Ken asked if there was any more progress on the feasibility and cost of moving the Gale School and David Morse responded he had not heard from either the architect (Peter Bolton of Christopher Williams Architects) or the moving contractor about a walk through as he had previously discussed with the architect. Concerns of the SAU still needing a new facility if the Gale School was used as a town hall were discussed.

Jeff Marden distributed a NH Division of Historical Resources publication on Historic Buildings and Code Compliance. Jeff noted that historic compliance does not require elevators as long as the facility is accommodating to the handicap. Both the Gale School and the current town hall are both historic for this purpose.

The committee was anxious for the engineering report of the current town hall to be completed to take the next step in the committees' review of town hall options. It was hopeful the engineering report would be available for the next meeting.

The committee discussed the expected population of Belmont in the future and desires for a build out analysis were expressed. The hopes were for a worst and best case scenario to relate with the future needs of town hall. The build out analysis would also assist with analysis for cost of community service and town staffing.

It was the desire of the committee to attempt to arrange a "Plan NH" charrette to provide professional guidance and insight to the committee. Ken Knowlton, Linda Frawley and David Morse will arrange a meeting with Jeff Taylor.

The committee discussed the time frame that it has to work with. It was felt the committee will be able to have a direction/option to recommend that addresses the town hall needs for the next annual town meeting on March 2004, but it would not be until 2005 for any plan to be voted on and funded.

The next meeting is at the Belmont Public Library on Thursday June 26, 2003 at 7:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

Respectively submitted

David Morse