

Ashburnham Focus Committee Meeting, January 22, 2008

Present: Bob Fichtel, Chairman; Pat Frederick, Christina Sargent, Sallie Thoma and Town Planner Eric Smith. Also, Town Engineer, Donald Ouellette.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Chairman Fichtel.

It was reported that Acting Town Administrator Paul Boushell has received no reply to the letter sent by the Town to Garlick family member Mrs. Richard Hurley, in Leominster, concerning the family's land on Williams Road.

Eric Smith reported that he and George Allan drove by the 23-acre Cushing Academy property along Old Nims Road. Former owner Sallie Hartshorn had given the Town right of first refusal for the property several years ago, which the Town had ceded to Cushing Academy in exchange for the parcel of land where the new Public Safety Building is being constructed. Eric and Mr. Allan also drove by the 17 acres of Garlick family property on Williams Road, on the same side of the road as Briggs School and the Municipal Light Plant, and also Mrs. Hartshorn's property on Winchendon Road at Coughlin Road. Another property along Stowell Road has too much rock ledge and wetland to be considered. A property on Route 12, between Nolan's and Behringer's parcels, belonging to Mr. Olson, who is in Alaska, is unsuitable, having a 20% grade.

Bob Fichtel had spoken with Paul Teixeira of RCAP Solutions, about senior housing. HUD will pay for land for senior housing. The committee is looking at Gil Carreiro's land, which Gil would prefer to sell to the Town, rather than to a commercial developer.

Thus far, the Garlick property looks like the best new location for the Highway Department. Bob will follow up on this with Paul Boushell.

George Allan should supply the committee with a progress report on his proposed building designs, to share with voters at Town Meeting.

Perhaps various Town-owned properties could be sold to raise money for buying land for a new Highway barn.

The ULI-Boston Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) grant people were meeting last week to review applications. They should be contacting Eric soon.

Eric notified the AFC that the Village Center Zoning District Study Committee has had its first meeting. Also, he reported the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have both approved GFA Credit Union's building plan for their new downtown branch.

The deadline for Town Warrant submissions is the end of February.

The next Focus Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 5:00 PM in the Malcolm Stewart Room at the Stevens Memorial Library. *

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary

* This date was eventually moved to Tuesday, February 19th, because Eric Smith had a schedule conflict for the 12th.