

## **Ashburnham Focus Committee Meeting, April 22, 2008**

The Focus Committee attended the Selectmen's meeting, to present its findings on possible land parcels for relocating the Town Highway Department

Present: Bob Fichtel, Chairman; Pat Frederick, secretary; and Sallie Thoma

Bob Fichtel gave the Selectmen an informational packet including the Site Favorability Matrix. He explained why the parcels at the corner of Williams and Platts Roads, and at the corner of Williams and Turnpike Roads, were of interest.

The Focus Committee's proposal, presented by Bob, was that the Town auction off Town-owned properties, to raise money to buy a piece of land for a new Highway Department facility. Of eleven such properties that might be auctioned; five are on Sunset Lake, and three, adjacent to lots currently for sale, might interest a buyer considering purchase of one of those lots. Realtors have valued the lots for sale at around \$39,000 each. Some properties owned by the Town would need easements for access by the Fire Department; others, earmarked by the Conservation Commission, are therefore not being considered.

Selectman Dennehy agreed that some of the Town's foreclosure parcels should be auctioned, to return them to the real estate tax rolls. He also agreed that the parcel recommended by the Focus Committee would be a good place to relocate the Highway Department. Mr. Dennehy felt there should be a real estate appraisal of the property, and that the Town should also consider eminent domain acquisition, and should forward to the Treasurer a list of properties to be auctioned in one day, if clear titles can be proven for them.

Selectman Gagnon said the West Shore Drive properties have access to a water main, so any easement on them should be removed.

Mr. Dennehy thanked Town Treasurer Anne Cervantes and Lori Capone, of Land Use, for preparing the spreadsheets on the properties.

The Focus Committee left the meeting following Bob Fichtel's presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick