

Minutes of January 18, 2007 Focus Committee Meeting

The regular meeting followed a 3:30 special session in the Malcolm Stewart Community Room at the Stevens Memorial Library, to discuss redevelopment of the present Highway Department Site on Central Street.

Present: Committee members Bob Fichtel, Chair; Pat Frederick, and Sallie Thoma. Also, Town Planner Eric Smith.

Bob called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

In relation to the parcel of land on Rte.12 being considered as a possible site for relocating the Highway Department; Bob and Eric will go to Donna Burton in the Assessors' office, to continue the search for when the parcel was first listed there.

Eric announced that the Town has hired an Engineer, Townsend resident Don Ouellette. Previously serving Ayer, currently employed in Medford, Don was Eric's first choice among candidates.

A letter has been sent to the Garlick family regarding their land on Williams Road; are they interested in negotiating with the Town, which might want to purchase it as the Highway Department relocation site?

George Allan will prepare a cost benefit analysis comparing the Rte. 12 and Garlick land parcels.

Steve Nims and George Allan visited the highway barns in Princeton and Rutland. Steve likes the plan of the Rutland barn.

Eric told the Committee he had attended a meeting of the North Central MA Economic Development Council, with members from 26 communities in this area. One of the speakers, a UMASS/Amherst professor, had emphasized the importance of promoting artistic / cultural resources in each community to attract commerce. Pat Frederick commented that Ashburnham has an established cultural resource which hopes to continue its presence in the town.

The next meeting of the Focus Committee was planned for Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 PM. *

Sallie moved to adjourn, seconded by Bob. So voted. The meeting ended at 6:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia H. Frederick

* This has been changed to Tuesday, February 20 at 5:00, in the Town Meeting room at Town Hall, when Focus Committee members will study Assessors' records with Donna Burton, in an effort to find when the Rte. 12 property was first listed.