

Moretown Town Office Planning Committee

April 12, 2012

Minutes

The committee met on April 12, 2012. Attendees: Diana Costello, Becky Auger, Duane Pierson, Ellen Riley, Jonathon Siegal, Denise Gabaree, John Schmeltzer and Clark Amadon

Updates:

Old Town Office site: Need to reconcile a report by Debra Feldman, the Zoning Administrator that indicated this building is above the base flood elevation. It would be doubtful that a resurrected Town Office on this site wouldn't be mitigated for high water.

Hoover Austin passed on information through Clark Amadon that he had contacted some individuals on Fox Farm Run re the possible re-location of the Town Office off this private road. Hoover reported that there was some support for this idea and that more information is needed. Hoover also indicated that a property off Rt. 100 was on the market and might be a site to consider.

Discussion of Town owned sites continued with new information added from the previous meeting.

Those assembled walked the property up towards the tennis courts, "The Rec Field" and off Fox Farm Run to better able to understand the lay of the sites and characteristics.

"The Rec Field"

Considerations: This site may be able to access the septic system that exists at the top of the hill that is used by the school. Jonathon Siegal is going to connect with the engineering firm that oversees the site for more information and feedback. Neighbors of this site were contacted by Diana Costello. There was feedback given that the committee should continue to look at the "old office site" before considering this area. Also, it became apparent that there may be an issue of ownership at the very back end of the Rec Field, which needs to be cleared up. Clarifying this issue would help determine more precisely where a building could be sited. Also, some feedback was given that the tennis courts shouldn't be sacrificed for this facility. The issue of traffic, safety, lighting, power and the sites somewhat isolated nature were also addressed and need more consideration.

"Fox Farm Run"

Considerations: Thus far no neighbors have raised a significant concern but more outreach to those in the area is necessary. This site also looks like significant earth moving would be necessary to site a building. The road would need to have a change in use from private to public. Parking space is also a concern here. There's also the likelihood that more traffic would use Hurdle Road. Like The Rec Field, there's also the needs of lighting, power, water and septic to solve.

“The Town Garage”

Considerations: There was also a suggestion to consider the Town Garage due to its size and location. The serious concerns here are the retrofit for office space. The building also is quite large and would be a looming place for the Town Office. The garage of course would also need replacing if the office was here. The cost seems as though it may be unrealistic.

“Expanding the School”

Considerations: It was brought up that if classroom space was added to the school building then the town could possibly use the front of the school building as a Town Office. This was not fully considered at this time. However, it may be worth looking into this solution.

Information needed for the meeting on Thursday April 26th:

Attempt to clear up ownership of property near the back of the Rec Field.

Gather information about connecting to the septic system used by the school.

Agenda for the April 26th meeting.

Update on new information gathered since April 12th.

Decide what expertise is needed to help the committee move forward. There may be a need to hire some professionals to help the committee further vet town owned sites.

Eliminate sites: It's time to narrow down the list of sites to move the process forward.