

Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 25, 2019
Memorial Town Hall
Approved December 17, 2019

Present: Board of Selectmen Chair, Brian Moriarty, Edmund Jaworski and Diana Szynal.

Also in attendance: Housing Authority Members John Wilkes, Mike McGrath, Roland Laurin; Executive Director Brenna Duquette; Planning Board Chair Bob Wagner; Fire Chief Gaughan, Building Inspector Kyle Scott; Highway Lead Garrett Barry; Dan Goulet, Engineer @ Tighe & Bond; Tom Boyer, Dept. Housing & Community Development; Capawonk Residents

Chairman Moriarty called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Moriarty presented purpose of meeting to hear from the Housing Authority regarding a plan for additional parking at Capawonk. Also present, residents from Capawonk, representatives from Boards and Committees and a few Department Heads.

Announcements

Mr. Jaworski referenced a scheduled event to be held November 29 @10:00 am at Chestnut Tree Farm. The Department of Agriculture and Resources picks one tree in the Commonwealth each year to cut as the official Christmas Tree. The Secretary of Agriculture will be in attendance.

Mrs. Szynal announced the 350th Committee is accepting a donation of \$25.00 for anyone interested in sponsoring a candle for the anniversary cake which will be lit the night of this year's Luminarium. Committee members may be contacted for a ticket.

Chairman Moriarty turned the meeting over to Housing Executive Director Ms. Duquette.

Capawonk Housing Authority Parking

Ms. Duquette explained they would like to introduce their proposed reconfigured parking plan for additional spaces and presented Dan Goulet, an Engineer from Tighe & Bond for further details.

Mr. Goulet explained Tighe & Bond is "on-call" for the Department of Housing and Community Development. Looking a six additional parking spaces which would include outside of the Housing Authority property. The property consists of 44 units, currently 22 parking spaces are available and use of eight spaces at Town Hall. Plan would require two shade trees to be removed, relocating park benches and a sign. Responding to a question about whether property behind Capawonk and front of Main Street were looked at for potential spaces, Mr. Goulet said accessing the property in the back is narrow and property on Main Street would involve town property. Also, for esthetic reasons, it would not work.

The Department of Housing and Community Development is funding a significant portion of the cost and Capawonk is covering \$40,000.

Based on the proposed plan, Fire Chief Gaughan explained that there are no fire lanes at the complex and the current plan will make it more difficult. He is of the opinion that Main Street is a better option. Fire trucks have a problem now accessing the property. Although access is tight for the ambulance, they are able to get in.

Speaking for the Planning Board, Bob Wagner referenced the Town's Zoning By-Laws do not allow for new construction with parking that backs out onto a main way. Adding, it changes the character of Main Street. Mr. Wagner expressed concern for safety on Main Street including the intersection of School Street, as well as.

Housing Board member Mr. McGrath spoke of the Director's plan to implement vehicle stickers for residents.

Highway Lead Garrett Barry inquired about relocating the cross walk on School Street and meeting ADA compliance. Mr. Goulet explained the cross walk would be further up School Street moving away from Main Street. Since the current plan is in schematic design, it has not final.

Ms. Szynal proposed giving up some green space on School Street to bring spaces closer, and relocate bench on another side where there is shade.

Mr. Boyer offered that DHCD could add benches to the project.

Mr. Wagner raised the lack of visibility for the crosswalks and suggested upgrading them.

Housing Authority member John Wilkes made reference to the need for public transportation in town center. Selectman Jaworski responded that FRTA has been approached. However, it is not cost effective now.

Explaining the purpose of the evening's meeting is to fine tune the plans, update the plans and get the Board of Selectmen's blessings, Chairman Moriarty, believes the meeting has accomplished that.

According to Mr. Goulet, based on the revisions, a pole may have to be moved which would be costly.

Motion was made by Ms. Szynal to ask Tighe and Bond to redesign plans by pulling in spaces closer with the sidewalks in between in an effort to create more space as emergency vehicles enter and exit the property and give more turning radius to residents, and maximum safety.

Mr. Boyer asked if the Board was looking to design something more finite and reapprove or is the Board of Selectmen giving permission. Motion was not seconded.

Concluding the discussion, Chairman Moriarty stated he believes there is a consensus of the Board. However, the Board needs to see a finalize design.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Jaworski reminded the Chestnut Tree Farm official cutting of the first tree.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 with a motion made by Mrs. Szynal and seconded by Mr. Jaworski.

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator