

Town Office Planning Committee Meeting

April 26, 2012

Moretown Fire Station

Attendees: John Schmeltzer, Diana Costello, Becky Auger, Jonathon Seigal and Clark Amadon

The work on 4/26 centered on narrowing down the site list for the future town office. The sites remaining on the list are in no order are the following:

In or near Moretown Village:

So-called "Kingsbury Lot".

New Office building on the "old office lot"

Post Office Building

Space at rear of rec field near the tennis court

Space near school off Fox Farm Run.

On Rt. 2:

Land adjacent to the current temporary office on Rt. 2

Discussion:

Characteristics of the sites were discussed. There are also unanswered questions as well. Other sites can certainly be suggested and sites removed from consideration could return to the list. However, the committees goal at this time is to narrow down the sites being considered. It was also suggested that someone with significant project management skills be consulted as well. A person with this expertise can help us see other issues needing to be addressed at this stage of planning.

Many of the sites may require an engineer to review for issues of water and septic. Some of the sites would also require significant excavation work, such as the property off Fox Farm Run. Traffic issues also could be significant at Fox Farm, Kingsbury's and the rec field site. There are also numerous water lines that lead to village homes and businesses that come off the hill east of the rec fields that. It's important to plot the water lines as solutions are considered.

The design of the office also comes up for discussion as well. The Planning Commission recommended the size of the building be approximately 1600 sq. feet. Soon it's important to start being more specific re design plans and requirements other than size and the need for a vault. Cost is obviously a factor as well with very rough estimates for construction ranging from \$100 to \$150 a sq. ft.

This committee also plans to make site visits to these areas soon. We also wish to discuss our process with Waitsfield and Waterbury as they make some similar decisions for their town offices.

Further information being sought for the meeting on Thursday May 10th:

*Connect with the owner of the post office building re details of the current post office lease and other building characteristics.

*Research ownership of the parcel at the rear of the rec field and seek out information re the water lines.

Lastly, the committee is looking at holding a June 2012 public forum on this planning process. Residents are to be invited to attend and hear about the current state of planning, offer suggestions and participate in design planning.

Next Meeting: Thursday May 10th at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Office on Rt.2.