


Town of Tewksbury
MINUTES

TOWN CLERK
BOARD OF REGISTRARS
TEWKSBURY, MA

2022 AUG 5 PM 12:57

Committee: Tewksbury North and Trahan School Reuse Committee

Date: June 30, 2022

Time: 6:35 pm

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

Members & Staff present: Bruce Shick, Lorna Garey, Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Mark Kratman

Members not present: Kristen Smith, Ken Duffett, Robert Fowler

The meeting was called to order at: 6:40 pm

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions:

1. Resident Comments

Resident Karla Branchaud reminded the board of the town's envisioning plan, which has relevant insights for the two sites.

The "Envisioning Tewksbury 2037" report was completed in 2017 and contained results of an extensive year-long visioning and data collection effort. The intent when the group was formed in 2016 was to develop a guide for future planning and development. Key points are access to open spaces and ways to be more walkable. Also central is community. They worked with a consultant, had open houses, and heard from about 400 people in town.

Themes: Access, community, creating a town common with businesses and cafes, having a "heart of the community" and a walkable center. Housing options for all stages of life. Business and shopping. More sidewalks. Municipal resources, such as fall harvest and July 4 events. Protect and enjoy our natural resources and preserve our open space before it's lost.

The committee used an app called Co-urbanize that enabled residents to drop a pin in various areas to offer input. They also did forums at the high school, senior center and schools. Students were taught how to go on the Co-urbanize site.

There is a 124 page report online:

https://res.cloudinary.com/courbanize-production/image/upload/v1/information_plans/brxzbewkhbf101xfvu1d

Mark Kratman says the survey is currently informing sidewalks, signage and other projects. The timing of the town center proposal was unfortunate because a fire station and new elementary school were under discussion. He also points out that the historic commission in town may want to weigh in on preservation.

Bruce Shick asked Karla what her thoughts are on the school sites. She would love to see the Trahan site be something that serves the community in some way since there are so many dwellings in the area. The idea of a lower elementary school has been floated for North St.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the June 6 meeting were reviewed and approved with no adjustments.

Motion to approve minutes: Mark Kratman. Seconded by Kayla Biagioni-Smith.

Motion carried 4-0.

3. Survey Discussion

Bruce has heard feedback that there may be too much information in our survey that may lead people to a conclusion. Our charter includes the charge to “review and document the current condition of the buildings to determine if they should be reused or demolished.”

The committee is in agreement that we should provide as much information as possible to both residents and other boards and committees.

Committee also agrees it’s important to include as firm and realistic dollar figures as possible on demolishing the schools and to insure and maintain them as empty buildings.

We’d like to have at least one nonprofit come in and discuss feasibility and viability in light of available funding. Mark thinks Alex has spoken with CTI.

Resident and chair of the Tewksbury Housing Authority Joel Deputat weighed in that there is a seven to 10 year wait for housing, and that veterans and their surviving spouses normally get preference whether they are residents or not. He also points out that there is a difference between affordable and subsidized housing.

4. Drone video

The committee thanks Thomas Branchaud for editing the drone video. Some additional editing will be done. Tewksbury Telemedia will be asked to put it online and may also take some limited video of the inside of the buildings, for example, mechanical systems, still shots of holes in ceilings, and the basement of the Trahan.

5. Next Meeting date

Committee discussed skipping the July 7 meeting and reconvening on July 19. Bruce will check in with members closer to that date. Mark will be on vacation but will be available on the 28th.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mark Kratman. Seconded by Kayla Biagioni-Smith. The motion carried 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays through 2022:

July 21

August 4 & 18

Sept. 1 & 15

Oct. 6 & 20

Nov. 3 & 17

Dec. 1 & 15

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Town Hall

Minutes approved by Committee on:

AUGUST 4
(Date)