

# **BEDFORD DEPOT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of November 16, 2005**

## **MINUTES**

**Committee members in attendance:** Joseph Piantedosi (JP); Jim Shea (JS)

**Ex-officio committee members in attendance:** Angelo Colao (AC), Selectman liaison to Depot Park; Richard Jones (RJ), Facilities Director; Richard Warrington (RW), DPW Director

**Ex-officio committee member absent:** Rick Reed, Town Administrator

**Members of the public in attendance:** Donald Corey; Neil Leary; Robert Slechta

Chairman JP called the meeting to order at 3:34 P.M. at Bedford Freight House, 120 South Road.

JP invited Robert Slechta of the Bedford Historic Preservation Commission (MHC) to address the committee. Mr. Slechta proposed that the Town apply for a Survey and Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the purpose of studying restoration of the Railroad Station building. He provided an overview of the grant program:

- 60% of project funding would come from the grant and 40% from the Town;
- About \$70,000 is available statewide from this grant program;
- The project minimum is \$6,000.
- Last year's grants were in the range of \$6,000 to \$21,000.

Donald Corey added that this might be an opportune time to plan for the Depot's restoration—Bedford has received grants from the MHC in past years. Bedford's share of the study's cost might come from the local Community Preservation Program, he offered.

Mr. Corey outlined how an architectural study would identify the Depot's current conditions, look at its original appearance, and determine the feasibility and cost of restoring the building to something similar to its original form. RW proposed that any study of the Depot include both the exterior and the interior.

JS inquired what type of restrictions are attached to acceptance of the MHC's grant. Mr. Corey said that the Town would have to agree to a deed restriction to prohibit future sale of the building. JS noted that such a restriction may already be in place as a condition of using Transportation Enhancement Program funds to purchase the property in 1999.

RJ speculated that an architectural study of the Depot might cost about \$25,000. He offered to get some estimates from consultants.

JP asked to what measure any subsequent restoration of the Depot would have to match the building's original appearance. Don Corey said that the MHC has been flexible in allowing building restorations to take into account contemporary construction techniques and the owner's usage requirements.

After the committee discussed pros and cons of pursuing the proposed grant, JP asked whether we ought to recommend to the Selectmen that the Town submit an application to the MHC. The

committee's consensus was favorable to do so.

RW reported that he understands the Massachusetts Highway Department is to advertise the Freight House renovation project on or about December 9.

RW said that the intersection improvement project is nearing its completion. The traffic signals are in transit to the subcontractor who will install them.

RW presented a financial report for the rail car renovation project. He said that the environmental remediation phase has been completed and that electrical work is planned next.

JS proposed meeting with JP to draft a schematic drawing of the Freight House's interior renovations.

RJ distributed a Depot Park Revolving Fund financial report. He said that Depot tenant Don Varney is in arrears with his rent by two months. Tenant Babe Ruth Baseball may not have paid rent since their lease became effective on August 1. He said he will check into this question. Recent building maintenance has included repairs to Freight House plumbing and minor repairs at the Depot, RJ explained. He has spoken with Mr. Varney about not parking on the sidewalk and about moving his belongings out of part of the Depot basement.

RW suggested that the Friends of Bedford Depot Park begin moving out of the Freight House in early 2006.

JP proposed that review of the minutes from the September 21 meeting be deferred to the next meeting (12/21).

At 5:10 P.M., JP made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JS seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Submitted by

Jim Shea, Clerk

These minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the committee at its meeting of December 21, 2005.