

BEDFORD DEPOT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of February 22, 2006

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; Rick Reed (RR), Town Administrator

Ex-officio committee member not in attendance: Richard Warrington (RW), DPW Director

Others in attendance: Donald Corey, Historic Preservation Commission

Chairman JP called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M. at Bedford Freight House, 120 South Road.

JP reported that the Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and Finance Committee have given their support for a Town Meeting article that seeks matching funds to perform an architectural study of the Depot.

RJ presented a draft of the Massachusetts Historical Commission/Depot study matching funds application. The Committee discussed options for the application's formal title.

JP conveyed questions from CPC member Cathy Cordes: *How might the Depot be made handicap accessible should the building be renovated? Would the architectural study examine A.D.A. issues?* RJ suggested adding A.D.A. and environmental testing to the scope of the study. He believes this will raise the cost estimate to about \$40,000. JS suggested that the preliminary Depot design work done by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin might be of some value in the future study.

JS provided RJ with an historical synopsis of Bedford's rail transportation history for inclusion in the MHC grant application.

AC left the meeting at 4:06 P.M.

The Committee discussed the possible timeline of the architectural study. JS asked whether visuals ought to be incorporated in the MHC grant application. RJ proposed that the Committee review the draft grant application and provide any feedback directly to him.

JP related an e-mail update from RW about the state's bid advertising of its Freight House renovation project. The Committee discussed options for receiving additional information from the state. RR said that he will make inquiries with the Massachusetts Highway Department Commissioner at an upcoming meeting that he is attending.

JP related an e-mail update from RW about the rail car renovation project. The DPW will pick up the refurbished seats and radiator covers using a rented box truck. These items will be placed in storage until such time that they are to be installed. The car's electrical work is to begin soon.

JP said that RW told him a mop sink will be installed inside the Freight House's hot water heater room. This would allow the electrical cabinet to remain in place.

JS asked how the Freight House's interior schematic may be made into a final architectural plan. RJ said that he will ask Menders, Torrey & Spencer whether they would prepare an interior design. The Committee discussed options for how the interior work might be accomplished. One possibility is that the remodeling is accomplished in-house with Facilities Department staff.

The Committee discussed how a model railroad layout of Bedford might be incorporated inside the Freight House after the building is renovated.

RJ updated the Committee about the status of Depot tenants. He believes tenant Donald Varney is two months in arrears. The Committee discussed methods to collect back and future rents.

RJ said that part of the Depot's basement is being cleared out in order to store the Freight House contents.

RJ presented a Depot Park Revolving Fund financial statement. There may be a spreadsheet error in the report, he said. The actual balance of the Fund may be higher than is reported. RJ will check the calculations and make an adjustment, if necessary, on the next statement.

JP made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 26 meeting. JS seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

At 6:15 P.M., JS made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JP 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 March 15, 2006.