



BEDFORD DEPOT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town Hall • Bedford, Massachusetts 01730

Meeting of March 1, 2009

MINUTES

Committee members in attendance: Donald Corey (DC); Joseph Piantedosi (JP); Jim Shea (JS)

Ex-officio committee members in attendance: Angelo Colao (AC), Selectman Liaison

Ex-officio committee members not in attendance: Richard Jones, Facilities Director; Rick Reed, Town Manager; Richard Warrington, DPW Director

Others in attendance: Selectman Michael Rosenberg; Selectman Mark Siegenthaler; Daniel O'Brien, railroad car consultant

Chairman JP called the meeting to order at 12:35 P.M. at the railroad car at 120 South Road.

JP introduced consultant Daniel O'Brien and asked him to recap the renovations that have been performed to Rail Diesel Car 6211. Mr. O'Brien provided a tour of the car and outlined the work that has been accomplished by contractors, DPW staff and local volunteers.

JP, AC and Selectman Mark Siegenthaler discussed the Depot Park Revolving Fund, the 20-year financial plan and the funding that is requested to complete the Freight House interior fit-out and the railroad car renovations. JP said the Freight House interior fit-out would include raising the floor's elevation to match the height of the door thresholds, purchasing and installing cabinets and countertops, electrical and plumbing work, and procurement of appliances. He noted that the building's interior would be used for multiple purposes: dispensing beverages and snacks to bikeway users, a reception area for visitors to Bedford, historical displays, and a preparation area for food catering that is associated with special events and rentals.

DC and JP expressed that although they believe all of the proposed interior fit-out expenses qualifies for Community Preservation funding, the appliances were segregated from the other expenses as a precaution. The Committee discussed the appliances and how they would support Freight House operations.

Mr. O'Brien summarized the remaining tasks to be performed on the railroad car. Significant among them is a step modification at the eastern end of the car so that it properly meets the new platform. He also pointed out the need for automatic door closers.

Selectman Michael Rosenberg remarked that the railroad car is a great resource for Bedford. He inquired what actions would be taken to publicize its rental opportunities. JS replied that Fay Russo at Town Center, Inc., intends to undertake publicity and that a brochure would be offered

to the public when they visit the car. JP noted that several unsolicited rental inquiries have been received in the past.

Mr. Rosenberg asked whether Bedford Historical Society, Inc., responded to the March 2008 RFP for rental of Depot space. DC said he did not participate in the proposal evaluation process, but believes the Society's price proposal was considered inadequate. JP commented that once the Town is allowed to rent the building for up to 99 years, it might be possible to attract a tenant who is willing to restore the building in exchange for reduced rent.

The Committee members and other attendees left the railroad car to look inside the Freight House through its door windows. JP spoke of the interior work that is to be carried out by the Facilities Department and their contractors.

The meeting ended at 1:24 P.M.

Submitted by

Jim Shea, Clerk

These minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of the Committee at its meeting of 3/05/09.