



BEDFORD DEPOT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town Hall • Bedford, Massachusetts 01730

Meeting of May 10, 2013

MINUTES

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

Ex-officio committee members not in attendance: Richard Jones (RJ), Facilities Director; Rick Reed, Town Manager; William Moonan, selectman liaison

At 1:23 P.M., chairman JP called the meeting to order at Bedford Freight House, 120 South Road.

JP said that Rick Reed requested input from the committee about a proposal the Town received to rent the Freight House as a restaurant. The purpose of today's meeting is to formulate a response, he explained. JS said that he did not wish to participate in the committee's discussion of this topic because he is a member of Friends of Bedford Depot Park, a nonprofit organization that is using the Freight House under a non-exclusive license as a welcome center. JP requested that JS remain present as clerk to record the meeting minutes.

JP and John Peterson discussed a letter from Maryalyce Henning to Rick Reed that requests the Freight House building be rented to her for the purpose of it being a 1950s-style restaurant. JP reviewed that when the Depot Park project was conceived in the mid-1990s, the Freight House was intended to be a museum and welcome center, while rental of Depot offices would provide the primary revenue to support the Depot Park complex. He added that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation allocated approximately \$400,000 towards exterior and interior rehabilitation of the building under the premise it would be used for these purposes. The building has served Bedford well as a welcome center since 2000, JP feels, and he objects to converting the building to rental property.

John Peterson said that while he is generally pro-business, he sees the value the Freight House provides as a welcome center for the town and concurred with JP that the building's current usage ought to be continued. He suggested that the Depot, the Larson property on Railroad Avenue, and the proposed 54 Loomis Street development could be viable alternative locations for a restaurant at Depot Park.

JP distributed a draft of a letter addressed to Rick Reed that recaps the current use of the Freight House as a welcome center and museum and recommends that this type of use be continued. John Peterson made a motion to send the letter as drafted to Rick Reed. JP seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 2-0-1 with JS abstaining.

JP requested that review of the draft minutes of the April 22 meeting be deferring to a future meeting.

JP said he plans to discuss the future of the committee with Rick Reed.

At 1:51 P.M., John Peterson made a motion to adjourn. JS seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Jim Shea, Clerk

These minutes were approved by a unanimous vote (2-0-0) of the Committee at its meeting of 6/28/13.

Documents and other exhibits used at this meeting:

- Meeting agenda, dated 5/10/13
- Draft of letter to Rick Reed, dated 5/10/13