**PLYMPTON TOWN PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes Friday, April 30, 2021, 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Butler, Ross MacPherson, Colleen Thompson, John Traynor,

Jon Wilhelmsen (Chair) MEMBERS ABSENT: 0 GUESTS PRESENT: 0

NOTES: This meeting was conducted on a Zoom meeting platform with members participating from their homes. Members and guest will be referred to by their initials in the minutes.

ACTION ITEMS: **In bold print**

1. OPENING – JW opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. by reading the Governor’s orders of 3/12 & 15/20 which allow this Zoom meeting as a temporary change to Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 shut-down. The meeting will be recorded to provide public access.
2. CURRENT FIRE STATION
3. JW, JT and Chief Silva had a good meeting in the community room in the police station on 4/29. They talked a lot about the safety and space issues. That discussion illuminated how closely those issues overlap and raise the liability issues. Some concerns discussed:
* Contamination – The gear (soiled and clean) is stored along the wall that backs onto the kitchen and living spaces. Access to those areas means passing near to contaminants.
* Water for fire suppression – The fire station well and pump is inadequate for filling tankers.
* Vehicle safety – In order to allow for quick response to calls, the vehicles are backed into the station. There is a strong possibility of someone getting pinned against a wall or another vehicle during this process.
* When the station is empty of vehicles, it looks spacious with plenty of room. Once the vehicles are in place there is little room to move around, let alone consideration for safety and OSHA compliance. Most people have only visited the fire station when it is emptied for a pancake breakfast fundraiser. They have no idea of what the situation truly is.
1. They also discussed how other areas in a new building could be used in the future. There could be space for a mini-clinic (useful in case of another vaccine crisis) and a common meeting room for things like CPR classes.
2. JW and Chief Silva met today with a professional videographer who is willing to help create some three-minute videos that highlight the challenges in the fire station. These can then be distilled into one educational video.
3. FIRE STATION STUDY ARTICLE DISCUSSION
* JW suggested passing over the article at this May TM and moving forward with a STM in September. This is something that we weren’t even considering a couple of months ago and there’s little sense to rushing into it now. Postponing will allow us to get FinCom on board and get input from PAYS. It will give us time to prepare a good presentation, educate voters, and gather support.
* RM agreed and pointed out that most of the members of this committee were on the Public Safety Building Committee which worked to create a good building brought in on budget and basically on time.
* This will allow us time to give further thought to how the current fire station will be used and how that could evolve over time. Maybe now it becomes the extra garage and storage space while the offices and living space are used by the COA, Veterans’ Agent, Food Pantry, or other community groups. Later as funding becomes available it could become the community/senior center that we hope for.
* JT said that we need to show the entire picture – the vision for the Plympton Town Campus. The new fire station is only the first step. Share the vision, ask for input and design the phasing.
* There needs to be discussion about the ball fields. Do we leave them untouched, reorient them gain space, or move them to the Harry Jason area? Harry Jason is a huge area just waiting for full recreational use. How do the Dennett fields fit into the picture?
* Moving the fields will allow more parking and safer/easier access to the campus buildings. It would allow the creation of a public park space, including a pavilion, which could be used for concerts, movies, COA activities, etc.
* JW suggested that we focus on educating and creating the presentation. We begin by talking to FinCom in June. Also in June, we need to reach out to PAYS to get them involved in creating the broader phased plan for Plympton athletics and recreation. Let’s get on top of this before people move into their summer vacation and leisure plans.

NB moved that we pass over Article 29 (Fire Station Feasibility Study) at this Town Meeting and bring it back to a Special Town Meeting to be held in September. JT seconded. Roll Call Vote: NB aye, JW aye, RM aye, CT aye, JT aye.

1. MEETING RECORDINGS – JW will talk with Liz Denney about making TPC meetings available through Area 58. We will seek to start this with the March 2021 meetings.
2. NEXT MEETINGS: **Wednesday 5/5/21 at 5:30**, Wednesday 5/12/21 at 6:45 before Town Meeting, Wednesday 5/19/21 at 6:00
3. ADJOURNMENT: 6:22, CT moved; JT seconded