

CUMBERLAND PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX SITE LOCATION COMMITTEE

Meeting, Monday, March 2, 2015
6:30 PM

Call to Order at 6:30 PM

Attendance Roster:

Town Officials: Mayor William S. Murray

Committee Members: Sean Thompson (ex officio), Josh O'Neill (ex officio), Alex Marszalkowski, Kimberly McCarthy, Thomas Cabana, John Monaghan, Alan Bourgette, Frank Matta, Tim Draper, Mark Lindgren, Tom Letourneau, Jeff Mutter

Members of the Public: Nicholas Goodier, Dana Newbrook, Richard Rochette, Bill Dennen, Edwin Hayslip

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Not applicable for first meeting

1) Introductory Remarks from Mayor William S. Murray

The Mayor welcomed everyone and started the meeting by going around the room and doing introductions. He stated that this Committee is intended to be a "site location" committee. The main purpose of this Committee is to review viable sites in Cumberland that could potentially be the future location of the Cumberland Public Safety Complex. The Committee will have full rein to propose any public or private sites for consideration as long as they meet the minimum space and location requirements for public safety response. The anticipated deadline for this Committee's work will be June 15th. At that time, it is anticipated that the Committee will make its recommendation to Mayor Murray.

The Mayor suggested that the Committee meet bi-weekly, although he left the time and frequency of meetings up to the Committee and its Chairperson. He stated that Town Planner Josh O'Neill will be the Secretary to the Committee and will post meeting agendas and take meeting minutes. Josh, along with Sean Thompson and Police Chief John Desmarais, will be ex officio non-voting members of this Committee and will be able to answer questions and provide technical assistance to the Committee throughout this process.

2) Overview of Public Safety Needs by Rescue Director, Sean Thompson

Sean reviewed space needs for the new facility. He went over different criteria considered to date and indicated that 26,000 square feet was the amount needed for the new proposed facility, according to the pro bono work done by Kaestle Boos. He cited Foxboro's public safety complex as the ideal, but stated that Cumberland does not need all of the room they have at 43,000 square feet.

He mentioned that the debt service environment for Cumberland allowed us the opportunity for the bond funding. Right now the project cost estimate is close to \$12 million, but the longer we wait, the more likely it is that costs will increase. Both the police and rescue buildings are outdated and in violation of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

3) Open Discussion

A question was asked about whether or not the Committee should look at public land only or public and private land. Mayor Murray and Sean both clarified that the Committee can look at both public and private land, but any cost spent on acquiring private land would leave less available for building the new Complex.

Mayor Murray stated that any questions from the press on the Committee's progress or meetings should be directed either to the Chairperson of the Committee or to Josh who will be the Committee's Secretary.

Several Committee members asked what the exact minimum acreage requirement would be for the Public Safety Complex. Sean and Josh explained that the initial review of potential sites for the Complex was limited to Town-owned land that were in the center of Town and 10 acres or larger. Sean indicated that 7-10 acres would be the smallest site that should be considered. Mayor Murray indicated that 6 acres was the minimum necessary acreage, although additional acreage would be preferable for potential future growth.

Tom Letourneau mentioned that he has information on Bellingham's Police Station and will share that with the Committee.

Sean stated that we need to keep an open mind right now on whether all rescues will be at this facility. In response to a question from the Committee, Sean indicated that the Town might be open to having the Public Safety Complex contain shared administrative, dispatch, and training space, and perhaps one rescue vehicle, while keeping other rescue vehicles at existing locations.

Frank Matta asked is eminent domain was on the table. Mayor Murray responded that he has not considered it.

4) Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Meeting Schedule

Committee members discussed their backgrounds and what they would like out of the Committee. Mayor Murray asked if there was anyone who would like to be considered for Chairman. Jeff Mutter stated that he does not want to be Chair or Vice Chair. Frank Matta stated his time is being heavily consumed with the Fire District work so he does not want to be considered either.

Tom Letourneau proposed Mark Lindgren as Chairperson due to his experience and expertise, and Mark agreed to stand for Chairperson. No one else volunteered himself and no one objected. Mark will be the Chairperson going forward.

Mark and the Mayor asked who would like to volunteer as Vice Chair and Tom Cabana volunteered. No objections were made. Mark Lindgren will be the Chairperson and will oversee meeting conduct.

5) Future Meetings and Handouts

Josh stated that he had booked Tuesday nights for the next few months at the Library for this Committee and asked the Committee how often we should meet. After some discussion it was agreed that the Committee could meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. The next meeting was set for March 10th, and the Chairperson indicated that the meeting schedule going forward would be set at the next meeting.

Josh handed out a packet of the Town-owned sites mentioned earlier, and limitations relating to those sites, from some initial research conducted by the planning department last fall. He also handed out maps of the Town showing Town-owned land and land with conservation restrictions. The Committee will review this material for next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 10th at the Seminar Room of the Cumberland Public Library at 6:30pm.

Other Business

None

Adjournment at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh O'Neill, CFM, MPA
Staff