



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD
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**Minutes
Town Hall Planning Committee
August 18, 2023
9:00 am**

Committee Members Present: Barbara Marchione, Chair
Chris Gregor
Mari Enoch
Robert Hartt
Rona Easton (via zoom)

Others present: Marc Trachtenberg
Prudence Spaulding
Tara White

Barbara called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

A motion was made by Mari, seconded by Barbara, and so voted by Barbara, Chris and Mari to approve the minutes of July 21, 2023. Bob abstained as he was absent from the July 21 meeting.

Rona joined the meeting via zoom.

The Committee members shared their experiences from the Open House recently held at Robin Hall (Kolburne School) and the Town Hall. From the data on the sign in sheets at each location, it is estimated that 80-90 people stopped in at Robin Hall and about 30 people stopped in at Town Hall. Bob and Chris shared that the comments they heard at Robin Hall were generally positive but there were skeptics as well. Barbara and Mari shared that the comments from those coming to Town Hall were positive about the renovation plans produced by EDM and some people felt that if Town Hall were renovated the offices should be moved out of the basement to the upper floor.

Barbara wanted to make it perfectly clear that the Committee had not made any decisions about which project it is recommending. Marc Trachtenberg's presence at the Open House was solely as a representative of the owner and does not in any way represent the opinions of the Town Hall Planning Committee. Barbara has spoken to the NM5VN to make sure that there is no misunderstanding. She reminded the Committee that questions from the press should be directed to the Chair of the Committee.

Barbara shared the property card of a 4.1 acres parcel the Town owns at 44 Hartsville Mill River Road where the New Marlborough Central school is located. She felt the Committee should do due diligence to see if it were possible for that parcel to support both the existing school and a new Town Hall.

The Committee discussed whether it should spend money on hiring an architect to draw up a schematic of a potential new building. Rona feels that until we have a specific site, any schematic would just be a sample building and would need to be redone anyway.

Bob reminded the Committee that it should take another look at the program and review it with an eye to what the Town Hall will need to be in the future, especially in regards to office space and storage space.

There was another discussion about the process for issuing the next Request for Proposals (RFP). Barbara asked if we should be issuing separate RFPs for raw land and existing buildings. The consensus is that it would be difficult to rank the proposals against each other if they are in separate RFPs. Rona suggested a vote be taken to make a final decision on the RFP before any more work is done.

A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Mari, and voted unanimously to issue one RFP seeking proposals for both raw land and buildings.

There was more discussion on the structure and criteria of the RFP. Mari will put together some options to bring to the next meeting. Barbara offered to help.

Barbara reported that she had received a phone call from Paula Hatch, President of the New Marlborough Land Trust, clarifying the sentiments in a letter read in a previous meeting. It is not that the Land Trust does not want to help the town, it is that they are unable to provide any land at this time as its properties have conservation restrictions. The Land Trust is open to ideas for collaboration in the future should land become available.

The members will review the existing program and bring comments to the next meeting.

Mari reported that about 70 people have responded to the recent online survey. The Committee agreed to extend the deadline to August 24 and Mari will bring the results to the next meeting.

The Committee set the next meeting for August 25 at 9:00 am.

A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Mari, and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am.

Submitted by,
Mari Enoch

Date Approved: August 25, 2023