

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING & BUDGETING COMMITTEE
PRELIMINARY DRAFT
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2011, Tracy Hall - Multipurpose Room

This set of minutes has not been reviewed or approved by the Committee

Members Present: Ed Childs, John Lawe, Barry Rotman, Tom Sterling, Evan Pierce, Tom Gray

Members Absent: Neil Fulton, Bob White

Others: Pete Webster, Anne Silberfarb, Phil Dechert, Steve Flanders, Linda Cook

Tom Gray called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Introduction of Committee. Gray introduced the Committee members present and outlined the purpose of the forum. He said the forum is partially in the nature of a progress report. The Committee's purpose and tasks were described in a previous Public Forum June 15. Since that time, the Committee has gathered information from Town Department heads and most Committee members have toured Town facilities. Based on that work, the Committee has compiled a list of possible capital projects, which was made available as a handout at the forum. The list of possible projects was also included in an electronic mailing to the Town e-mail list and via a link in a notice posted to the Norwich Digest listserv (<http://web.valley.net/files/norwichvt/CFPBCProjectList.pdf>).

2. Review of List of Possible Projects. Gray asked for additional thoughts on the list of possible projects and mentioned some ideas that have surfaced in previous community meetings, such as a café and youth center. Lawe asked whether discussion of the third agenda item (town pool) could be included as part of the discussion of the projects list.

Webster outlined the current situation with respect to the pool:

- Webster has met with the Town's insurance adjuster. The dam was valued at \$101,000, and that value is presumably reflected in insurance premiums.
- There will be funding available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for 75% of damages. Significant paperwork will be required.
- The dam is "basically gone." There is a repair fund, but the money accumulated in it will not be enough to replace the dam.
- It may be that building a pool at Huntley Meadows would make more sense than replacing the dam. However, it's also possible that FEMA assistance would be restricted to repairing damage.

Lawe noted that flooding issues usually occur with some predictability, and suggested that perhaps the dam spillway might be constructed in such a way as to allow it to be opened to prevent future damage. Webster said that if the dam is holding back less than 500,000 cubic feet of water, which it was, it's considered a "diversion" rather than a "dam" (less regulation).

Silberfarb said that while she loves the pool, building at another site should be considered if possible, rather than one which will remain vulnerable to flooding in the future.

Lawe noted that another possible project to consider might be linking Norwich's water supply to Hanover, via a connection under the Ledyard Bridge. Dechert said it would make sense to consider as a backup to the current well and surface water supply.

Flanders noted that the DPW Committee, on which he serves, is looking at the question of paving needs. Gray said the Capital Finance Committee is aware of the need to consider findings of the DPW Committee and the Lister Review Committee in its deliberations.

Sterling said people have asked him about the Blood Brook pedestrian bridge (to Huntley Meadows). Gray explained that the current bridge was a volunteer project that is now in disrepair and poses a safety liability for the town. Webster said Andy Hodgdon has identified a potential replacement bridge that is currently owned by the Town of Morrisville but not being used. There would, however, be costs associated with installing it and ensuring that it is flood proof.

3. Adjourn. **The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.**

Tom Gray,
Chair

Future Meetings: Thursday, September 15, 2011, 8 am