

Minutes of meeting Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 pm at SRLT office.

Present: Clem, Ron, Chris, Patrick, Andy, Jean, Lucia, Bob

1. Before sitting down to our meeting, we wandered around the area looking in windows and at empty lots.

We looked in the windows of Todd's office and at the roofline of his building. We looked in the windows of Downeast Insurance and at the lot next to it. Nate Bell was at his office (the old town office) and he let us tour it completely. He has put up a non weight bearing wall that divides the office in two. This could be torn down.

2. Clem reported about his meeting the the school superintendent, Heather. She says that programs in the elementary school plan to be ongoing for the foreseeable future, that the old high school next to it is in bad shape and has not yet been decommissioned as a school.

3. Clem got a price from Johnson for a one or two year rental of the former town office space: \$1000 plus \$175 a month for maintenance.

4. We discussed the idea of a modest renovation to the old town office and moving back in there as a temporary solution. We would be investing in a property the town already owns and we could sell it when a permanent solution is reached. Everyone in the group thought this was our best temporary solution.

5. John Piotti came over after the planning board meeting and explained his idea for using the space next to the community center behind the little cape for to build a town office. There were some things in his explanation that were not clear to me before, most importantly that the town would own everything in that lot; there would be no joint ownership of anything. I will send the drawings he provided in a separate email. Maine Farmland Trust now owns the lot outlined in heavy black. They would give that lot to the town. Note the parking included. MFT would renovate the old cape and have the leased use of it at no cost for 20 years. The lot has town sewer and a well. The town would own the well, but it would be shared with the community center as it is now. John will present the idea to the MFT Board in early June. Everyone in the group thought this was our best long term solution.

6. Action items.

Clem will get the community center measurements from John P and Tess. Patrick, Chris, and Andy will get measurements on the old town office. Jean will find a meeting space for our next meeting on Wednesday, May 23. Tony and Patrick will find a way to contact the Edmundsons who own the old Aldridge property on the corner to ask about parking.

7. Notes

I talked to Sue at the town office this morning and discussed the two ideas with her. She hopes that if the long term plan is shown to be viable within the next few months, that the school board would allow the office to stay in the school while it is built, but if that doesn't happen, she is ok with the move to the old town office.