

Hanover Fire Station Study Planning Committee
February 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Fire Headquarters
Hanover Fire Station
Meeting Minutes

The Town Administrator opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Motion by Donald Buckley to nominate Roger Leslie to be Chairman of the Fire Station Planning Study Committee. No other nominations were made. The Committee unanimously voted for Roger Leslie to serve as the Chairman of the Fire Station Planning Study.

Motion by John Barry to nominate John Galluzzo to be Vice- Chairman of the Fire Station Planning Study. No other nominations were made. The Committee unanimously voted for John Galuzzo to serve as the Chairman of the Fire Station Planning Study.

Present: All Members

Also Present: Jeffrey Blanchard, Chief of Hanover Fire Dept.; Jason Cavallaro, Deputy Fire Chief

Chairman Roger Leslie asked that each member identify themselves and the Board or Committee they are representing:

Meaghan Dunn:	Planning Board
Vanessa O'Connor:	Advisory Committee
Ruth Lynch:	School Committee
James Browning:	LEPC
John Barry:	Board of Selectman
Roger Leslie	Citizen At Large
John Galluzzo:	Citizen At Large
Donald Buckley:	Citizen At Large
Lisa Mutchler:	Citizen At Large
Christian Azizian	

Report of the Chairman:

Purpose of the Committee: See *Meeting Minutes* of the BOS January 6, 2020

Copies of the *Report and Recommendations of the Hanover Fire Station Study Committee 2005* were given to all attendees.

Presentation: Fire Chief Blanchard: A copy of the power-point presentation is available upon request: Questions were asked by Committee Members during the presentation

I. A History of Feasibility Studies

Pre – 1991: Six Volunteer Fire Stations

1991: Recommendation: Two new Fire Stations to be built- one in North Hanover, one in West Hanover to augment Fire Headquarters; *No Action Taken*

2005: Recommendation presented in 2008: Build a new fire Station in North Hanover; *No Action Taken*

2008: Recommendation: Build a new Fire Station at the site of the Former Curtis School on Main St. *No Action Taken*

2009: Fire Department applied for a \$2.3 million dollar grant to construct Fire Station on the Curtis School Site: grant denied- not “shovel ready.”

2010: Recommendation by D.R.A. Study to dispose of three properties currently being used by the Fire Dept. and to construct a new satellite facility. *No Action Taken*

2013: Action: At Town Meeting: Majority voted (by 1 vote) to transfer the Curtis School land to the Parks and Recreation Dept.

2014: Action: Insurance Services Office visited Hanover to evaluate Fire services according to National Fire Protection Association. Hanover received a 1.84 points out of a possible 4.00 points (46%) *No Action Taken*

2015: Fire Station Working Group Assembled: CDR Maguire develop a Site Selection report: Undeveloped Land across from Hackett’s Pond on Webster St. Cost: \$6,888,749 *No Action Taken*

2019, March 23: CDR Maguire contracted to update Webster St. Project cost to \$9,000,000.

2020, January 6: Fire Station Planning Committee established.

2020, November: Report to be presented to Board of Selectman

- II. Fire Chief Blanchard: A copy of the power-point presentation is available upon request

Response Times: numerous slides illustrating the various sections of Hanover and the response times.

A detailed explanation of why high response times is a considerable safety problem for citizens living in those areas shown in various photos and maps for both emergency care as well as building/home fires

- III. Photographs of Sub Station # 3 located at 925 Circuit St. West Hanover and the sub-standard conditions of the facility

Discussion of Possible Sites: Pros and Cons

1. Amos Gallant Field: Not an Option (at one time this was considered a possible site)

Con: Past site of the Curtis School. Upon its demolition, the land was given to the Town Parks and Recreation Department and renamed the Amos Gallant Field, which is currently used for HYAA baseball.

Con: Land located in a residential section in North Hanover; the turn-around space is not acceptable

2. Building located on Old Webster Street: (across the street from the back entrance into Stop & Shop)

Pro: Located in a non-residential section North Hanover

Con: Too small according to Chief Blanchard and the building would need considerable renovation

3. 925 Circuit Street West Hanover

Con: Too small

4. Current North Hanover Fire Station

Con: Delayed response- call fire fighters

Con: Not large enough, even if raised up

Con: A third Station would still be needed

5. Addition to Current Headquarters

Con: tight space

Con: apparatus response conflict

Con: no parking, conservation issues

6. * Undeveloped Land across from Hackett's Pond on Webster St.*

Pro: Large plot of land, centrally located in North Hanover, near So. Shore Voc. Tech School, two 55+ apartments, two 3 story apartments. Four apartments will soon be built at Hanover Crossing

Pro: Located on a major route (Rt. 123), also close to Rt. 53.

Con: Town Counsel advising purchase of the land by Town: no property tax has been paid on this land for over 20 years.

Additional Discussion:

John Barry: Expressed concern about raising taxes and that the Board of Selectman are trying to preserve the current tax rate.

Need to be "forward thinking": what problems will come up over the next 10Years? · By 2030 could have approximately 3,500 calls a year and will need more firefighters. Will also need a new station by then.

3% a year call volume increase; partly growth and partly aging population.

Route 53 buildings have sprinkler protection; they are fairly new and many are commercial

Other members asked additional questions

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Next scheduled meeting March 12, 2020 at 8:00am. Agenda to be determined

Respectfully Submitted on June 19,2020

Ruth A. Lynch

Ruth A. Lynch Secretary: Appointed on May 28, 2020