

**Town of Richmond
Town Center and Library Committee
Minutes March 16, 2023**

Present: Josh Arneson, Jeff Forward, Laurie Dana, Dave Healy, Amy Wardwell

Members of Public: Martha Nye

I. Welcome & Public Comment

II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

III. Items for Presentation or Discussion

a) Discuss design options from Black River Design

Police Department Discussion: There was a lively discussion of the extensiveness of the Town Center building renovations that are being devoted to the Police Department. Laurie said that she feels that the discussion has been highjacked by the Police Dept. needs *and wishes*. In her written comments to the committee, Karen Yaggy expressed a concern many committee members agree with that issues relating to the Richmond Police Department are already politicized and that we don't want the appearance of too much space/money being spent there to negatively impact a Bond vote. Jeff commented that Black River's current designs have nearly 3,500 square feet for police and Hinesburg PD only has 2,500 square feet. There was some discussion of whether a sally port is a need or a wish, likewise a locker room. Laurie stated that a separate entrance and better office set up might help the most. Jeff will talk with John & Andrew about thinking about a smaller Police Department footprint prior to our next meeting. These concerns were reflected in the discussion of specific design plans.

Add Sq FT tp Matrix- The committee felt it would be helpful to see the total square footage for the Town Office, Meeting Space, Police, Tenants and Post Office on any future Matrix for the various options.

Summary of comments on 7 options:

PLAN A1

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Like the handicap ramp both sides of library	No tenant space
Additional parking ALSO love that all of these designs eliminate the 2 handicap parking spaces on Bridge Street which are hazardous to get in and out	Sally port position as first thing you see is not very welcoming. Also backing, or pulling in from travel lane by police could be hazardous
One building	Town offices on 2 floors
Doesn't impact neighbors	Cruisers will still likely park in very visible front part of building
Minimal change to post office	Police Dept. has no separate entrance
Keeps elevator near front door for accessibility	QUESTION If police did not have 2 nd floor, could be tenant space

PLAN A2

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Like the handicap ramp both sides of library and coming from parking lot.	Too big and too visible police department space—looks like it is a police department with a Town Center attached
Additional parking	Too much tenant space (too much being devoted to non-Town Management functions)
Sally port more hidden	Sally port position so police have to back into entrance travel lane
Doesn't impact neighbors	Town offices on 2 floors
Minimal change to post office	Drastically changes the look of the original Historic Building
Keeps elevator near front door for accessibility	
One building	

PLAN A3

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
	NO this project is not about building a new Police Department building

PLAN B1

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Like the PD on the side with Sally Port in the back. Moves PD farthest from kids & families using Library	Impacts neighbors on the PD addition side
Love connectivity of the 2 buildings and the compact handicap access to library	Public entrance to PD is very far from the parking lot
Love the welcoming aspect of the green space on Bridge Street with parking more hidden behind	A lot of impact on Post Office space
Maintains the integrity of the original Town Center façade on bridge street	Would need site work to meet flood plain mitigation standards
Town Offices all on one floor	Removes library green space in back for programs and future expansion of library building

PLAN B2

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Like the PD on the side with Sally Port in the back. Moves PD farthest from kids & families using Library	Impacts neighbors on the PD addition side
Love connectivity of the 2 buildings and the compact handicap access to library	A lot of impact on Post Office space
Love the welcoming aspect of the green space on Bridge street with parking behind	Removes library green space in back for programs and future expansion of library building
Maintains the integrity of the original Town Center façade on bridge street	Would need site work to meet flood plane mitigation standards
Like the common corridor entrance to TC, Police and Post Office close to the parking lot	Moves elevator far away from building entrance from parking lot
Town Offices all on one floor	Question- B, C, D don't show mechanicals

PLAN C1

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Town Offices all on one floor	Most post office disruption
Keeps Bridge Street façade of the building closest to the original historic building	Elevator is far away from public entrance
	2 story Police Addition – implies police most important – too big

PLAN D1

PROS	CONS, concerns, questions
Keeps the building closest to the original historic building viewed from Bridge Street	Puts a driveway next to the neighbors
Police addition -- connect it and scale back size. Not look like a separate building.	2 parking lots and entrances could be confusing
Like separation of employee/police parking but would want a walkway connecting the 2	Moves some parking places out of sight but it still could be public parking.
Like the green space in back of the library	Still looks too much like a new Police building
Question – does PO demolition on flood plain side mean it is out of the flood plain?	

b) Discuss Library exterior work options

After some discussion, the Committee recommended asking the Selectboard to approve the proposed library exterior work for Summer 2023 per the proposal presented for a project cost of \$65,905 and a final cost to the Town (after the grant is applied) will be \$51,104, which includes 15% contingency and a management fee for the Owner's Rep. Josh will add to the March 20 Selectboard meeting schedule.

c) Update on grant proposals – Bruhn Grant and Dept. of Libraries grants

Laurie reported that she would like to reapply for the Bruhn Historic Preservation grant round with the application due 3/31. Josh will add this to the March 20 Selectboard meeting agenda and Laurie will provide a fact sheet on the program.

Laurie reported that the Department of Libraries has received the guidance on the \$10 million HUD grant program and the date for completion of the projects is 2031 so the grant application process will likely be slower than we had hoped. The DOL is still waiting for approval and rules for the \$10.6 million State ARPA funds which will go to Vermont Libraries. Laurie & Rebecca are completing DOL Needs Assessment (deadline 3/31) which is informational only—grant applications will come later and need Selectboard approval.

d) Approval of March 2 minutes

Amy moved to accept the February 2 minutes & Jeff seconded. Approved unanimously.

e) Other business – None

f) Items for Next Agenda – March 30, 2023

Jeff will talk with the architects about the issues with the Police Department.

We will invite Black River to our next meeting to discuss design options.

(Josh and Amy will not be able to attend.)

The next meeting of the Committee will be March 30 6:30 p.m. start time

