

**Town of Richmond
Town Center and Library Committee
Minutes March 30, 2023**

Present: Jeff Forward, Laurie Dana, Dave Healy, Linda Parent, Jake Marin

Members of Public: Karen Yaggy

- I. Welcome & Public Comment - None**
- II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda - None**
- III. Items for Presentation or Discussion**

a) Update on conversation with architects about committee comments and responses to draft design options.

Jeff had a conversation with the architects about design options with a scaled back footprint for the Police Department – perhaps reducing it to 2,000-2,500 sq. feet and without a Sally Port. He observed that there is discussion at the Selectboard about contracting with another department for processing & holding services for those being arrested.

The Committee agreed that it was good to have looked at all of those other options but we wanted to explore what can be done without an addition, within the current building footprint. Laurie mentioned that a renovation which would give the Police Department a more functional space for the officers and a more welcoming space for citizens with a separate entrance, if possible, would resolve a lot of issues. Jake mentioned this as well, an upgrade to the existing space or a slight increase in space might work. Linda mentioned moving a wall in the current Zoning office would add some space to Police area.

Jeff felt that the architects understood this direction and will come back to us with some ideas at our next meeting. The committee felt that their role would be to review the next round and, if there were one or two options that we felt we could support, to take them to the Selectboard for an opportunity to review recommendations on renovations specific to the Police Department were arrived at.

Laurie mentioned that she had forwarded the site plans to Rebecca Mueller at the Library and they have forwarded their comments—which Laurie forwarded to committee members. They especially like the well-designed green space, improved parking lot, eliminating the 2 handicapped parking spaces on bridge street and handicap access to library that are in the plans.

b) Discussion of making a proposal from the Town Center Committee to the ARPA committee

The committee was supportive of making a request for the Town Center project to the Richmond ARPA committee. There was a lot of discussion about the need for a request to have a specific purpose and discussions zeroed in on making the building “net zero” or “net zero ready.” One idea was to look at the cost for a renovated building to code and the increase in cost to get closer to “net zero” ideal and to ask for ARPA money to fund the difference. Dave observed that moving toward net zero not only addresses the big picture of climate change but it would represent ongoing future cost savings to the town. Costing this out is a question for the architects, once we are closer to a design. Jeff still feels that this could be as much as \$500,000. Since we are not at the point of having a specific request, he was going to let the ARPA Committee members know that a request is coming and that it will be in the hundreds of thousands range.

c) Approval of March 16 minutes

Davemoved to accept the March 16 minutes & Jake seconded. Approved unanimously.

d) Other business – None

e) Items for Next Agenda

Architect's revised plan review
ARPA funding continue discussion

The next meeting of the Committee will be – April 13, 2023-- 6:30 p.m. start time