Capital Facilities Committee

Date: November 18, 2019

Committee members present: Jim Richards, Chair, Pam Wicks, Nancy Kane, Danielle Smith

Other Board members present: Tom Croteau, Jennifer Patterson, Liza Poinier

Administrators: Matt Cashman Director of Facilities and Planning, Jack Dunn, Business Administrator

Special guests: Merwyn Bagan, President, Abbot-Downing Historical Society, David Baer, Principal, Milestone Construction

Jim Richards opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. The agenda was a presentation about the “stable building,” and Dr. Merwyn Bagan and David Baer were introduced.

Dr. Bagan gave the history of the Abbot-Downing Coach Company and his research and interest, and that he and fellow historians had accumulated 10 original coaches. Most of the coaches have been stored at the Hopkinton Fairgrounds in an old barn. When asked how his group would proceed, he said that City manager Tom Aspell suggested an MOU between the City, the District and the Abbot-Downing Historical Society (ADHS) would need to be developed. Funding was a key component to launch the project. Dr. Bagan mentioned that a variety of tax credits and LCHP credits could be sought, as well as private donations, up to and including Wells Fargo Bank. Dr. Bagan noted that hours of operation would initially be weekends only, but as the museum grew, those could expand to weekdays. The renovation and operation of the buildout would last about six months, to produce a weathertight, structurally sound building. Business Administrator Jack Dunn gave a brief history of the stable building: in 1994, the City swapped the stable for the District’s old maintenance facility on Pembroke Road. Topics including parking, deed restrictions, liability insurance and property transfer were discussed. David Baer noted the cost would be about $1,600,000 with a 6-month buildout. Milestone Construction was well known in the City for tight construction sites and renovation work.

Mr. Richards made a motion to recommend that the full Board allow District administrators (Matt Cashman and Jack Dunn) to work with the City and ADHS to further explore the possibility of a building transfer over to the City.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend that the full Board allow the administration to work with the city and ADHS to further explore the possibility of a building transfer over to the city (motioned by Mr. Richards, seconded by Pam Wicks).

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Richards, Chair
Matt Cashman, Recorder