Meeting start approximately 3:00PM

Project Coordinator submitted quote #1 for the ladder access project.

Chairman Sullivan submitted copies of a THPC survey done back in 2010 about utilization of the building. Responses were varied and survey doesn’t appear to be scientific, but the town maintaining ownership for public use and preserving the building came out as the majority. Survey was conducted at that year’s Old Home Day event.

Discussion ensued about the history of the town’s planning for the building, its intended use, and current events. Notably, this year the renewed CIP Committee had inserted the OTH on the Capital Improvement Plan as a deferrable item for 2025 ($600,000 – based on a quote from 2018-19 to get the building finished). Members of the Planning Board, during their review, voted affirmatively to change this CIP item to this year. Attendees generally agreed this wasn’t a positive thing, as this year it would be extremely unlikely to pass the voters, similar to last year, but more so do to the unpredictable effects of COVID-19 on budgets. Councilor Sullivan asked questions about how the OTH came to be an active CIP item. Staff provided background – while it was on previous town CIP plans, it was never funded – and making it for several years in the future would at least begin the process of addressing the building actively.

Town Administrator Garron asked further questions about the history of the town’s plans for the building. Staff and Councilor Sullivan provided an overview of how things have generally proceeded.

Town Administrator Garron and staff emphasized the need to get a renewed consensus about direction, funding approach, and development of more detailed use and project plans. Councilor Sullivan maintained his support for the building’s original use (town owned and as a multi-use community space), but agreed Town Council needs to reach a consensus for the building’s near future. Agreed pursuing the edited CIP move for this year wouldn’t be good.

Issue will be discussed when CIP gets discussed. At a Town Council meeting in the near future, planning for the building will be a specific agenda item to hopefully build consensus on a clear way forward.

Meeting end approximately 4:40PM

Submitted – Nick Germain, MPA, Project Coordinator