

Borough of Stonington

Special Meeting

Board of Warden & Burgesses & Public restroom Building Committee

Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:00pm

Borough Hall

Members Present: Jean Fiore -citizen
Jim Quinn – St. Mary Church
Micayla Hall – Library
Janet McClendon – SVIA
Amy Nicholas – Burgess
Jeff Callahan – Warden
Kevin Rogers - Burgess

Members Absent: Deb Norman – Business

Other Attendees Present:
Julia Leeming – Lead architect
Lise Freitas – Assistant

Time start 1:00pm

- Jeff made a motion to begin the meeting. Amy seconded.
- Amy moved to appoint Jeff as chair; Kevin seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- Kevin offered to serve as secretary; there being no other candidates, he was appointed
- The term “Comfort Station” instead of “bathroom” was agreed upon by all attendees.
- A conversation of why the location of WAD Square was held. There are four Borough-owned properties that are not in the flood plain: Cannon Square (not suitable for obvious reasons); west end of LaGrua Park (only 1 foot above flood plain and residential area); north end of Wimpheimer Park (far from business district and Velvet Mill already has bathrooms); Wadawanuck Square, discussed below.
- Reasons why the docks were not the desired locations were explained. Flood zone and 108 feet of necessary ramp to get the height of 9 feet above flood level was described.
- Reasons why WAD Square should be the site were discussed.
 - The following reasons were explained by Jeff and Julia.
 - WAD Square is owned by the Boro.
 - The history of the library and how additions were added over the decades were explained.
 - Elevation of the site is 22 – 24 feet, much higher than any other public site.
 - Proximity to other public buildings.... Post office, St. Mary’s Church and the Library.

- Use of the already established granite curbing and sidewalks. Pushed back 5' from the existing curb.
 - Handicap accessible-ground level
- Conceptual building description: 240 square foot building, about 12 feet tall
 - Behind the library, facing Broad Street, aligned with the linear axis of the library
 - Two full family restrooms -10'x6' for each of the bathroom areas- gender neutral
 - Brick, wood and glass
 - Possible "green" roof
 - Approximately 17' from the end of existing library
 - Will follow the library proportions of 1:4:1:1
 - 2 possible wooden benches in front
 - Water station for people and pets
 - One small interior room for the mechanical, cleaning gear, supplies
 - Jean suggested a different area of WAD Square, on the east side of library, for the site. She believes it would be partially hidden by existing trees.
- Jeff made a motion to make WAD Square the proposed site, without specifying a location on the square. Amy seconded the motion and all were in favor, except for Jean who abstained.
- Julia introduced the idea that the school bus may use it as a morning stop, but Jean pointed out that Broad Street can be busy in the morning.
- Jim asked about the budget and suggested next summer as a target for completing construction. Jeff stated that rough budget could be prepared after design is better defined. All agreed that next summer would be a desirable goal, but Julia cautioned that qualified contractors are very busy now.
- Possible outdoor venue was proposed for a public meeting to roll out the plan.

For the next committee meeting, Julia will speak to Brad Painter and decide if the two mature trees will be able to stay and be healthy in the future. Micayla indicated that the small, newly planted tree in the center of the two mature trees can be moved without a problem. It is the property of the library.

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 18th at 1:00 in Boro Hall.
- Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm.
- Amy seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Rogers
August 6, 2021