

NMI/Starmet Re-use Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2020

Consistent with the Town's "Temporary Policy Directive and Guidelines for Public Meeting and Public Hearings conducted Via Remote Participation Due To Covid-19 State of Emergency," this meeting was conducted as a Zoom meeting, and the public was invited to view the meeting. The meeting was identified by the meeting ID 878 1042 4217.

PRESENT:

Members: Gary Kleiman, Andrew Boardman, Jim Burns, Pam Rockwell, Karl Seidman, Paul Boehm.

Others: Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning & Land Management Department (DPLM)
Linda Escobedo, member of the Select Board (by phone as user_1)

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

Gary read the instructions for participation, and informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Accept minutes from May 29 meeting. Draft minutes from the May 29th meeting were reviewed. The committee members asked that the discussions be summarized rather than detail every comment. Amendments were made to summarize the minutes. Paul made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Karl seconded the motion, and the minutes were accepted unanimously as amended.

Discuss the process for encouraging the public to participate in the online survey about reuse. The committee reviewed Karl's text and slides and agreed they should be used to present the survey to the public.

Marcia suggested the Thoreau Street visioning session on June 23rd will be a good audience for our message, so we should include a notice of our survey with the Planning Board's notice of the session. The committee also agreed that we should try to present at any committee meetings we can, and make sure that it is mentioned at Select Board and Chair breakfast meetings. The committee did not think that a public interactive session could be recorded before the survey needs to conclude. Gary reminded the committee that we have 4 main issues that we need feedback about.

There was a short discussion about the schedule. The survey will run from June 23 to July 7, so that we can discuss the results at our July 10th meeting.

Discussion of the content of the survey. The committee agreed that Karl had written an excellent survey. The committee discussed about whether we need more context built into the questions. The committee agreed that asking about leaving the site undeveloped was misleading, since reuse zone A-1 is already developed, but that it is reasonable to ask what sort of development should be preferred for reuse zone A-1. Other questions that will be included are whether soil from area A-2 should be used as fill onsite, whether there should be housing at the site and what kind, what kinds of environmentally friendly uses should be developed in reuse zone C, and what sort of recreational uses would be preferred for reuse zones A-2,3,&4.

The survey will also have a section for comments that would allow for the respondent to make alternative suggestions.

The committee discussed whether there should be any discussion of the timeline in the survey. Many committee members feel that they are comfortable recommending that reuse zone A-1 be developed first, but that the decision to develop reuse zones A-2, 3, & 4 should be postponed, so that more outreach can be done before these decisions are made. The committee decided that they did not want to confuse the survey with any question about the timeline of development decisions.

The committee discussed concerns about housing at the site, and Andrew pointed out that Housing Authority meeting that he had been to discussed the opportunities at the Starmet site. Gary pointed out that final committee report can say that there is a lot of disagreement about housing at the site, but Jim pointed out that housing is still a big issue that the Town is facing, and we need to have better risk communication before we can make any decisions about a recommendation.

The next meeting is July 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Rockwell, Clerk