

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 2, 2022**

Town of Bedford
Remote Participation Conference Call
Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

PRESENT: William Moonan, Chair; Alan Long, Vice Chair; Karen Kalil Brown, Clerk; Sal Canciello; Karl Winkler

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Sarah Stanton, Town Manager; Amy Fidalgo, Assistant Town Manager; David Grunes, Fire Chief; Taissir Alani, Facilities Department

Mr. Moonan introduced himself and read the Governor's Order regarding virtual hearings. The Historic District Commission (HDC) members and assistant introduced themselves.

PRESENTATION: Ms. Kalil-Brown read the notice of the hearing.

PETITION #007-21 – Town of Bedford, for the Bedford Police Station, at 2 Mudge Way, for addition/renovation.

Taissir Alani, of the Bedford Facilities Department, and Zel Tonic, the architect for the project, both greeted the Commission. Mr. Alani explained that they were before the Board tonight for a quick review of paint colors. He said that the HVAC units on the building would be hidden from view by louvers, and tonight they proposed either black or charcoal gray for the louvers.

There was dialogue about what color might be the most effective against dirt and long-term wear, and it was determined that the gray color would be chosen. With no comments or concerns from the Commission or the public, Mr. Moonan called for a motion.

MOTION:

Mr. Winkler moved to grant the Town of Bedford, for the Bedford Police Station, at 2 Mudge Way, the charcoal gray color for the louvers on the HVAC units, as shown on Exhibit A.

Mr. Long seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Moonan: Aye
Long: Aye
Kalil-Brown
Canciello: Aye
Winkler: Aye

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

BUSINESS MEETING: The Commission will discuss the potential demolition and rebuild for a new Fire Station at 139 The Great Road.

Mr. Moonan said he would be recusing himself from this discussion, as he was a direct abutter to the parcel at 139 The Great Road.

Mr. Long introduced himself as Acting Chair. He said that Town staff, led by the Town Manager, Sarah Stanton, would like to make a presentation.

Ms. Stanton greeted the Commission and stated that selecting a location for a new Fire Station had been a long and detailed process. She showed a slideshow presentation that detailed the limitations of the current site, the criteria of finding a new site, and the decisions that had been made that led the Town staff to choose the property at 139 The Great Road. She talked about the timeline of events over the past several years and also spoke about other fire station projects in other towns, noting that each structure was specifically designed to fit in with its particular location.

There was extensive discussion about the details of the site and the reasons for it being chosen by the Town, along with the possibility of other sites and the reasons they were not chosen.

Carol Amick, of 18 Crescent Avenue, made a presentation about the history of the house at 139 The Great Road, noting that Jonathan Bacon had originally built the structure as a carriage house. She said that this house was built in 1836 and there were fewer than 30 houses were left in Bedford of this age. She reminded that HDC members that they were charged with the preservation of historic structures in the District, and she urged them to oppose this project.

There was continued dialogue between the Commission and Town staff about the project. Mr. Long stated that he hoped the residents at Town Meeting understood that, if this parcel was purchased by the Town for the new fire station, the HDC still had the final say. Ms. Kalil-Brown suggested that the Commission make a statement at Town Meeting to that effect, and it was decided that they would hold another public meeting to craft a statement to be read.

Mr. Winkler said he believed the two entities could work together to come up with a plan that was good for Bedford but also respectful of the history of the site. Ms. Stanton said she hoped and believed that would happen.

Adjournment

Mr. Long called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION:

Ms. Kalil-Brown moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Winkler seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Long: Aye
Kalil-Brown
Canciello: Aye
Winkler: Aye

The motion carried unanimously, 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

William Moonan, Chair

Date

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Gould
HDC Assistant