

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Montague Town Hall Annex, then Montague Highway Garage

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, then 500 Avenue A Turners Falls

3:00pm Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM. Attendees included Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) members Greg Garrison, Josh Lively, and Steven Ellis, as well as Bob Obear who joined the tour at 500 Avenue A. Also in attendance was Tom Bergeron representing the Montague Department of Public Works.

Review of DPW Assets at 1 Avenue A

- Toured the Town Hall Annex and reviewed grounds maintenance equipment as well as physical space for grounds crew and the facilities crew. Observed apparent failure of roof, with active leak resulting in puddling on the shop floor. Garage bays facing 1st Street observed to be cold storage not only for DPW equipment, but also for lost bike storage, an old fire truck, etc.
- Moving to the large metal storage barn (Butler building), saw variety of equipment, general fair condition of structure skin, but good bones. Discussed whether it could be taken down and re-used at the proposed new DPW facility. Unclear whether that would be cost effective or better to purchase a less permanent structure as Greenfield has done.
- Discussed the challenge of moving all these operations to a new building from a space perspective. Underscored the fact that the new proposed building is not over-sized by any means. Considered whether the dog shelter would be a better location for this outfit, specifically.

Review of DPW Assets at 500 Avenue A

- The CIC toured the facility noting the obvious limitations of the building, as have been discussed at past meetings. Turning to the equipment, the fleet looks good overall, with clear evidence of an ongoing replacement program that leaves the town with new purchases to make, but an overall good fleet of vehicles. Every plow in the building goes out in a storm.
- Discussed whether we could engage summer help or jail prisoner labor to assist with an annual scraping and re-painting of vehicle bodies, which take a beating due to salt exposure.
- Noted that current space holds 15 vehicles and has heat, however inefficient. In many ways, this is an antiquated and more cramped version of what the new structure will provide in terms of interior vehicle storage.

Review and approval of minutes

- Mr. Garrison moved to approve the minutes of November 8 and Mr. Lively seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- Mr. Lively moved to approve the minutes of December 6 and Mr. Obear seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjournment

Mr. Garrison moved to adjourn at 4:40 pm and Mr. Obear seconded. Motion passed 4-0.