

Laperle Farm Committee Meeting Minutes (Approved)

May 22, 2018

Members Present: Ray Stout, Ginny Callan, Bob Morey, Seth Gardner, Zach Sullivan

Members of the public present: Susan Crampton, Renee Carpenter, Ross Hazel

- A. Meeting Called to order, 7:05 pm
No additions to the agenda
No public comment at this time
Minutes of the 8/29/2017 meeting approved. Motion: Morey, Second: Callan, In favor: All.
- B. Seth reported on additional research done on wastewater capacity for the site. Tests adjacent to the Laperle farm property had not yielded good results, but testing at another site approximately ½ mile away had been promising. Soil samples were sent to the state, and an estimate of the cost of pumping wastewater is needed. Don Marsh is the engineer who conducted the additional study, and Seth is waiting for him to provide further information regarding the costs and feasibility of pumping wastewater to the potential viable location.
- C. There was a limited discussion of continuing to pursue the VHCB grant because of the uncertainty around the wastewater treatment needs. At this point, wastewater treatment studies are the only thing that the grant can be used for, but it appears that it can be used for those studies since that is a primary factor in determining whether the project is viable.
- D. The group discussed EMSLI's needs with respect to the project. EMSLI representatives reported that uncertainty around the uses for the project is preventing them from going forward with planning for potential senior housing on the site because developers see the project as risky. EMSLI believes that they will be able to move forward with planning if the town would write a letter stating that they do want to provide senior housing as part of the use for the site.

Bob Morey made a motion that Laperle Farm Committee recommend that the Select Board write a letter supporting EMSLI's efforts to develop affordable senior housing on the Laperle Farm site which may also include family housing with a goal of creating affordable housing.

Ginny Callan seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor. Zach Sullivan will write a letter from the committee to the select board informing them of this recommendation.
- E. The group discussed the disposition of the existing structure on the property. There was general consensus that the estimated cost of preserving and renovating the building was too high to justify that path, and that the part of building to be saved might be too small to meet the town's needs as a new town hall. Ray Stout commented that he had received comments that people in

town thought that the building should be taken down, and the community green space was needed. There was general agreement that grass seed would not be an extravagant use of town resources.

Ray Stout made a motion to recommend that the Select Board raze the building and replace it with a community gathering green space.

Ginny Callan seconded the motion, and all members present voted in favor. Zach Sullivan will include this recommendation in the letter to the select board.

F. No other business

G. Meeting adjourned at 8:14. Motion: Morey, Second: Callan, In Favor: All