

MEETING MINUTES

Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Building Committee

Via Zoom

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Baldwin at 7:02 pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Attendance:

Present:

Ray Baldwin, Chairman
Bruce Silverstone
Dan Sacco
Steve Lemoine
MaryBeth Thornton
Preston Merritt
Dawn Cantafio

Absent:

Michael Lombardo

Also Present:

Dan Martin, Assistant Finance Director, Town of Trumbull
Jim Nugent, Attorney-Town of Trumbull
George Wiles, Wiles Architects and Assistant, Zorraida
Rina Bakalar, Town of Trumbull Economic & Community Development Director
Bill Chin, Town of Trumbull, IT
Roy Molgard
Ernie Foito

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes from Nov. 19, 2020 Meeting

Moved by Mr. Lemoine, seconded by Mr. Silverstone to approve the November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes. **Vote: 6-0-0** (D. Cantafio abstained)

Update on the site plan, design and future steps by Wiles Associates (George Wiles)

Mr. Wiles presented the updated site plan and highlights are: dredging of Katz' Pond will run parallel, need to test for potential hazardous materials under current building and if there are any, remove. Mr. Estrada, Town of Trumbull Public Works Director, has agreed to provide structural fill needed and truck away any materials removed. A geo-tech engineer must also inspect the new fill to make sure it's the type required. This runs concurrent with grant secured. Work would start in early Spring.

Mr. Wiles talked with Health Dept. officials about the building's sewage system flow and they are in agreement with Mr. Wiles. Percolation test and other work to be done on septic system. Mr. Wiles stated they are in the process of filling out an application to determine licensing for kitchen.

Mr. Wiles said that he had a good meeting with the Public Works department regarding storm water management. Public Works would like to see improved water quality leaving the site post building development.

Regarding the time frame of dredging Katz's Pond, Mr. Wiles said we are still in initial stages and no time table has been set yet.

Mr. Wiles presented building drawings and explained the all-wood structure, reviewed heating and ventilation – said a lot will be done with heat pumps which is very efficient. The challenge they are having is with the commercial kitchen exhaust hood and heat recovery. Mr. Wiles is going to consult with fire marshal on this issue.

Mr. Wiles stated that he will be getting a professional estimate on a volunteer basis from Bismark Construction for the garage door in the grill area.

Mr. Wiles said that all of the drawings are far enough along that we will have reliable estimates that we can share with the building committee.

Other details discussed: Mr. Silverstone felt it would be disconcerting when garage doors in grill area are down because one side will see what other side is doing. Mr. Wiles said we can use frosted glass on bottom and clear glass on top for light.

Mr. Silverstone commented that the rails at the bar should be placed in a different spot in order to free up space for people congregating in the area.

Mr. Wiles proposed the idea of an ice house décor for the bar area to commemorate Katz' Pond ice house history.

Mr. Baldwin mentioned that Town resident, Dr. John Willis, has done paintings of the Town and would do an ice house painting for the bar.

Mr. Silverstone proposed including antique military items in the room. Mr. Wiles said that this should go in the front lobby area so everyone that goes into the building will see it. Mr. Lemoine has a large amount of military memorabilia that can be donated for this.

A discussion ensued on getting cost estimates and bidding on the project so that there is no conflict of interest. Atty. Jim Nugent joined the meeting to provide input on this. The question is: if Bismark does a cost estimate on a pro bono basis, then they should not be bidding on the project. Mr. Nugent said that the Purchasing Dept. frowns upon this because of perceived unfair advantage that Bismark would have over other bidders who haven't seen the project. Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Nugent will meet with Kevin Bova, Purchasing Agent, to discuss recommendations. Mr. Silverstone suggested putting Bismark on hold for doing any further work until this issue is clarified.

Ms. Cantafio noted that there are no microwave ovens planned for the kitchen. Mr. Wiles said that they have consulted with a professional restaurateur and he's of the opinion that a microwave oven is not useful for our purposes and recommends a convection oven instead.

Update on State Grant and fundraising (Rina Bakalar)

Ms. Bakalar said that they are finalizing the STEAP grant with state on this week.

She also said that First Selectman Tesoro convened a federal delegation and this project was on the agenda. Federal earmarks for the project were discussed, but the delegation said there is no decision on whether earmarks would return.

Ms. Bakalar said that if there is potential environmental contamination at the site that may warrant clean-up and some costs are incurred, we have some grants in the wings that we may be able to pursue.

Trumbull officials also have a meeting with the state delegation and this project is on the list.

Ms. Bakalar said we need to regroup on private fundraising topic, and there may be some cultural grants available for the ice house concept that she will explore.

Discussion and approval of Wiles Associates invoices

This was postponed to a committee meeting next week so that Mr. Wiles can obtain the corrected invoices.

Moved by Mr. Silverstone, seconded by Mr. Sacco to table the invoice discussion and approval to Feb. 4, 2021. Vote: **7-0-0**

Other Business

Mr. Baldwin stated that he talked to the VA about using the facility and would VA be willing to fund some services/projects.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Sacco, seconded by Ms. Cantafio to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.
Vote: **7-0-0**

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Submitted by

Marisa Petriello