

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

* MINUTES *

December 10, 2007

7:00 p.m. A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Jerry Wasserman at the Needham Public Library. Present were Mr. Jim Healy, Mr. Dan Matthews, Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Jack Cogswell, Assistant Town Manager David Davison, Assistant Town Manager Chris Coleman, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. PPBC Chairman John Connelly, PPBC Vice Chairman George Kent, PPBC members Stuart Chandler, Paul Salamone, and Irwin Silverstein, and Director of Construction and Renovation Steve Popper.

7:00 p.m. **Town Hall Preservation Feasibility Public Hearing**
Wendell Kalsow of McGinley Kalsow Associates reviewed the progress of the project to date and presented the three current alternatives. He noted that all of the alternatives have a handicapped accessible ramp at the ceremonial front entrance. This could mean the loss of two of the six parking spaces closest to the entrance leaving a total of ten parking spaces in Garrity Way. The step down from the front door would be eliminated by making the landing of the handicapped ramp match with an extension of the first floor leaving the building.

Alternate 1 would require a small addition in the back parking lot to house an elevator, stairs, storage and toilet rooms. This alternative would give the Town Hall three levels of offices and would move the Planning Board and the Park and Recreation Department out of the building. The option of restoring the auditorium would be possible in the future. It is thought that this alternative would qualify for all or some large percentage of CPC funding. Alternate 2 would keep within the current footprint of the building and would permanently alter the auditorium space leaving no option of future restoration. This would give the Town Hall four levels of offices and house all of the current departments in one building. It is felt that this alternative may have limited qualifying CPC funding available. Alternate 3 would have a major addition in the rear of the building taking up the parking lot area. This alternative would house all of the current departments at the Town Hall and would restore the auditorium, which would have a capacity of 350 people. It is estimated that approximately 60% of this project qualifies for CPC funds.

Several citizens spoke in favor of restoring the auditorium for music events, dance groups, speakers, civic ceremonies, public meetings and exhibit space which would be serve as a focus and gathering place for the town citizens. A few spoke against restoring the auditorium and concentrating on using the space for Town Hall functions. Questions were posed regarding the amount of CPA reimbursement funds that could be expected. Where the Town Hall offices would be housed during construction was asked. The Town's Tercentennial occurs in the year 2011 and it was noted that it would be desirable to have the renovation completed by then.

10:25 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:25.