

Decas Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 27th, 2022, via Zoom Remote Meeting

I. Call To Order

Diane Kenney called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Roll Call

Members Attending:

- Diane Kenney
- Jon Dallmeyer
- Charles Klueber
- Tracie Williams
- Jody Santagate

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of 6/15 Minutes

Tracie asked to expand on findings of Public Safety Committee regarding the potential archeological findings at the Minot Ave location and how further study is required. Tracie also asked to add the total number of site plans with and without playgrounds reviewed. Jody asked to amend the minutes to identify the date and attendees of the meeting with Finance Committee.

Jon motioned to accept the Tracie's changes; Tracie seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to accept Tracie's changes

Jody motioned to accept her changes to minutes, Jon seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to accept Jody's changes

Jon motioned to approve the minutes with the aforementioned changes, Diane seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to approve the minutes pending those changes previously accepted

Approval of 6/29 Minutes

Diane motioned to approve the minutes from 6/29, Tracie seconded.

Vote 4-0-1 to approve the minutes, Charles abstained due to absence from that meeting.

Approval of 7/13 Minutes

Diane motioned to approve the minutes from 7/13, Jon seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to approve the minutes.

IV. Resident Comments

No resident comments

V. Discussion with Parties Interested in the Decas Project

No parties present

VI. Committee Member Announcements, Comments, and Updates

Tracie updated the committee on the latest Public Safety Committee work. The PSC uploaded a 28 page archeological study for the Minot Ave site. The Wareham Fire Prudential Committee is meeting on 7/28 to review the PSC proposals. Charles expands on the meetings, there will be three meetings. One meeting is at the Freetown PD to reviews their project, one at the APS site that recently was available for sale, and the joint WFD Prudential + PSC meeting at the firehouse. There are a few additional sites like the National Grid location on Charge Pond Road or the area near the 99 Restaurant but there are ingress and egress concerns for some of these sites.

Jon introduced the initial survey responses. The results are overwhelmingly in favor of a Decas Community Center with strong support from the elderly community. Need to determine end of survey period but will discuss later.

Jody discussed reviewing the PSC documents and the potential of the Head Start program leaving town and whether such a loss would affect the sustainability of the Decas project. She mentioned that in Bourne some old units were converted into affordable housing for seniors and whether we can petition to do something similar with the Decas school. She pressed the committee to determine a backup plan in case the Decas proposal fails or if too many organizations pull out. Charlie asked what such a housing project would do to the fields, Jody responded that the fields could remain intact for everyone to use.

Diane mentioned that she showed the survey to her union and will try to get some more responses.

VII. Working Group/Informal Group Updates

No updates this week

VIII. Discussion and Vote When to Close Survey

Jon proposed setting a 7/31 close date. That will give over 60 days of response time while giving the committee time to analyze and integrate the data.

Diane motioned to close the survey 7/31, Charles seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to close survey 7/31.

IX. Jones Payne Update

Nadia asked to review the draft format of the report to integrate with the rest of the final report. Jon and Diane will work with her to get it ready. She also mentioned that she still has no information from Crowley regarding the renovations done at Decas despite asking the town and school department for it.

X. Any Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours Before the Meeting

BOS Meeting Invitation

Diane reported that she, and only she, had been invited to a special Select Board meeting to present on our work. This is counter to how the Steering Committee understood the request, where we would meet as groups to have a discussion. Diane asked the committee to consider if we should accept the invite. Jody doesn't think we should accept since we don't want a presentation, we want a conversation, especially since the Select Board Liaison hasn't attended since his swearing in. Charles asked why the Select Board would appoint a committee without trying to work with them and cooperate. He pointed out that the Select Board Liaison and Town Administrator have rarely or ever attend our meetings. Jon agreed, there's no report to be made so we should decline. Diane will tell the Select Board Chair that we will not be attending the meeting given the parameters.

Annual Report

Jon presented the annual report to the Committee. We are required to provide an annual report to the town ahead of the Fall Town Meeting. No comments or changes proposed, Jon will send to the Select Board's office.

XI. Adjournment

Charles motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51PM, Tracie seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Facilitator Name

Minutes submitted by:  Jonathan Dallmeyer, Clerk

Date submitted to Town Clerk: 8/10/22