

Decas Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 10th, 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
- Missy Dziczek
- Derek Sullivan
- Jody Santagate joined at 7:02 PM
- Damon Solomon joined at 7:08 PM

III. Vote to accept meeting minutes of Wednesday August 3rd

Jon motioned to accept the meeting minutes for 08/03/2022, Diane seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to accept the meeting minutes

IV. Vote to accept meeting minutes of Wednesday July 27th

Jon motioned to accept the meeting minutes for 7/27/2022, Charles seconded.

Vote 5-0-0 to accept the meeting minutes

V. Resident Comments

No resident comments

VI. Discussion of Survey Results

Discussion moved to August 17th meeting; no discussion occurred.

VII. Committee Member Announcements, Comments, and Updates

Jody reported on the Decas Foundation clothing drive. 90 children signed up and were matched with 44 sponsors. To cover the gap, several organizations provided donations such as the WPD, Mill Pond Diner, and several banks in the area.

Jon updated the committee on the selected dates for the Fall Town Meeting and the deadlines for warrant articles/reports/etc.

VIII. Working Group/Informal Group Updates

No update.

IX. Jones Payne Update

No update.

X. Public Safety Complex Meeting Update

No update.

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

Derek Sullivan joined the meeting to discuss the presentation made to the Board of Selectmen the night before. His preliminary plan is to move the Town Hall offices and the Council of Aging to the Decas school, setting up a dedicated CoA wing and a “one-stop-shop” for permits, stickers, licenses, etc. for the town. The police would then move into the Town Hall after some retrofitting, and the current Multi Service Center would then become the community center with rental space, programming, etc. Derek elaborated on the phased approach over a roughly 3-year period including selling the East/West schools and the old police department.

Jody explained that she was watching the BOS meeting and was impressed with the plan and she is concerned that it negates a lot of the work that the Decas Steering and Public Safety Complex Committees have been doing.

Charles mentioned that the PSC has an architectural firm reviewing sites and they will consider town hall since it was not on the list prior. Charles asked about what would happen should the Town Hall refit not be feasible for cost or technical reasons. Such an event would eliminate a potential choice for the PSC. Charles also asked about when and who came up with this, echoing Jody’s comment about how hard we have all been working. Derek responded that he spoke with some of the PSC members about it over the past few weeks, but it was still very preliminary. Derek commended the work everyone has been doing but he can’t worry about feelings from his position. The costs for a new PD from Textron are DOA given the high costs right now and his job is to consider the town as a whole, there are savings possible from consolidation. Charles

considered that the money spent by the two committees could have been better spent elsewhere and we could've just disbanded to save time and money.

Diane asked about how this will proceed given that it is on the agenda for the next BOS meeting. Derek described his multi-phased approach, and the first step is doing more work to understand the costs to fit-out Decas for the Town Offices and potential revenues from disposal of the other sites. The cost of the PD refit at Town Hall also needs to be researched. Diane asked about the mechanics of such a move without a Town Meeting vote and Derek replied that any money needed would have to be voted on at a Town Meeting. Diane also mentioned that he said Community Services not a Community Center, Derek replied that it was an error in wording. Diane asked about the 3-year plan and whether a Community Center could happen sooner. Derek replied that the Center could move faster. The CoA and Town Hall move would be the nexus after which the Center could happen. Diane asked if Derek contacted SSCAC about rental space. Derek responded that he had not, and it would not be appropriate as he is the procurement officer for the town, but we can. Diane reported that she will.

Tracie asked about who came up with the idea and when. Derek replied that he did himself after being inside Decas for the sixth time and thought about space in town and how to best use it. Tracie asked if the PD being in front of the school would be a good idea given a prisoner could escape and put the school on lockdown. Derek conceded that he hadn't considered that, but he takes the PD as a deterrent to potential school violence.

Jon asked about the potential impacts to the playground and soccer field. Derek replied that the fields and playground would remain intact for the town to use. Jon asked about any potential limitations on services offered at the MSC and Derek replied that he would have none and that individual organizations might like Head Start did.

Damon asked about the Town Hall housing both the PD and Fire, Derek replied that there would not be enough room so WFD would stay where they are. Derek recapped his plan for Damon since he joined late.

XII. Adjournment

Charles motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM, Tracie seconded.

Vote 6-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Facilitator Name

Minutes submitted by:  Jonathan Dallmeyer, Clerk

Date submitted to Town Clerk: 10/10/2022