

FIRE PROTECTION REGULATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING August 7, 2013
Bolton Town Hall
222 Bolton Center Road

Members present: Chairman Milton Hathaway, William Anderson, Jim Aldrich, Jim Preuss, Raymond Walker, Dale Bonn, Neal Kerr, Thomas Manning, Robert Morra

Ex Officio members present: James Rupert

Unable to attend: James Cropley

Also present: Bob Munroe, John Dean

Mr. Morra moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed 9-0-0

Mr. Dean spoke and asked some questions about the draft report. He stated that he wanted to learn about the work the Committee had been doing and how it might affect the business community. He asked about the UConn water project and if water would be brought in to Town for the proposed Cider Mill Village Project. The Committee was able to provide some general information on these topics.

Mr. Morra spoke about the possibility of bringing water in from Manchester and the possibility of developers agreements for others in proximity to connect.

Mr. Dean expressed his opinion that the regulation was onerous.

A general discussion began around the cost of cisterns and sprinkler systems.

Mr. Munroe talked about the cost of the construction of cisterns based on his experience at the High Ridge Farm subdivision. He also spoke as the Chair of the Board of Finance regarding grand list growth and expressed that he felt the grand list suffers because of the current regulation.

The Committee discussed the draft report and how they would like it structured. They all felt the a concise executive summary with the Committees recommendations was needed and the rest of the report could contain all of the background and research information for consideration by the PZC.

Mr. Anderson expressed that he felt the Regulation should be removed and replaced with a master plan.

Mr. Aldrich felt that bonding may be a way of funding the master plan and that the revenue generated due to increased taxes would offset the expense.

Mr. Morra concurred that funding was critical and a discussion began regarding the viability of bonding for the cisterns in the business districts. Mr. Morra felt that bonding if approved could come within six months. He inquired of Mr. Manning how long he felt it would take PZC to finalize regulations after receiving the final report. Mr. Manning felt it would take about four months. Mr. Morra expressed his opinion that a way must be found to fund and construct the cisterns in the business districts in order to promote growth.

Mr. Kerr was concerned about acquiring the property easements for the cistern placement.

Mr. Anderson felt that if we were going to eliminate the need for the commercial regulation through funding we should recommend that it be removed now as a measure of good faith. Mr. Walker expressed that he is in favor of a sunset clause. Mr. Manning stated that once the water supplies were in place the regulation goes away any way.

Mr. Aldrich suggested that the Committee take a break to allow the Board of Selectmen to discuss possible funding options.

Mr. Morra felt the the appropriate first step was to have a meeting of the BOS public safety subcommittee before taking it to the entire Board.

The Committee had a general discussion about the sequencing of constructing and funding cisterns and the process in general.

Mr. Kerr asked from the business perspective, when does the burden get removed from the business community?

Mr. Morra moved to take the funding issues to the Board of Selectmen, it was seconded by Mr. Walker, the motion passed 9-0-0.

Mr. Aldrich moved to table the executive summary until after the BOS met, the motion was seconded by Mr. Kerr and passed 9-0-0.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

James Rupert