

# Horizons For Youth Reuse Committee

Sharon, Massachusetts

Meeting of August 18 2008



Minutes of August 18 2008

**In Attendance:** Mike Bossin, Barbara Kramer, Gary Bluestein, Jay Bronstein, Jane Desberg, Marc Bluestein, Diane Pankow, Glenn Allen, Walter Newman

**Guests:** Representing the Board of Selectman, Chairman Richard Powell, Joe Roach and Town Administrator Ben Puritz

- 1: 7:34 **Meeting called to order** by Chairman Michael Bossin.
- 2: 7:35 **Minutes** – The July 21 minutes were amended and noted by Gary Bluestein. Motion was made by Jay Bronstein to accept the minutes as amended and Marc Bluestein seconded the motion, with Jane Desberg abstaining. All attendees were in favor.
- 3: 7:40 **Correspondences**
  1. Letter received from Elise Falconie thanking the Committee for giving permission to use the parking lot for a family function parking.
  2. Letter received from Lee Shapiro showing interest in renting the Lodge for 6-9 house concerts throughout the year excluding the summer months. Suggestion was made to invite Mr. Shapiro to our October 7 meeting. All were in favor. Gary Bluestein will extend an invitation.
  3. Gary Bluestein mentioned that the Recreation Department wanted to do a presentation to the Committee.
  4. Jane Desberg said that she received a letter from B'nai B'rith of New England (non-profit) showing interest in either the Sacred Heart or Horizon property for affordable housing.

4: 8:00 **Long-Term Planning/ Selectmen**

Mike Bossin said that the Committee is at a stage to dig deep into long-term planning and asked for suggestions and input from the Selectmen. He said that two Open Houses were held; presentations from six planning groups were given; a couple of formal hearings to the public and an email sent to all the Town Departments looking for their usage/interest in the Horizon property which in turn the Committee received little to no response.

Is it time to take the next step, asked Mike Bossin to engage a professional planner? And, if so, the concern is funding. The Planner would need to give a range of attack to make hiring the individual worthwhile.

- Potential revenue
- Community usage

Richard Powell asked Mike Bossin what he thought the initial cost is to maintain the property. Mike responded saying he estimated anywhere between \$16-20K to run during the property during the winter months and this included \$8 –9K on energy.

Mike Bossin said so far Yossef Resnick is definitely interested in renting space to teach guitar lessons, Jean Pekham for dance and gymnastics and an instructor for Ti Chi.

Richard Powell then asked the Committee if we should continue to focus on individual rentals or push the interest in finding one long-term rental; i.e. 10 year lease plus options. What we do know is that we do not want to divide up the property or sell to a developer. Then said, Diane Pankow, could there be a posting saying that the Horizon property is not for sale.

The Committee mentioned to the Selectman, as an example, of using the property as an Arts/Entertainment Center, i.e. Community Theater, Music Performances, Art Gallery.

Barbara Kramer asked the Selectman as to what the roll of the Committee should be and what is being expected from the Committee for this upcoming calendar year.

Walter Newman said that there is a yes or no question that needs to be addressed. Are we focusing on Community usage of the property or trying to maximize the dollars by going outside? What are the Selectman's objectives and goals?

Jay Bronstein mentioned that there is groups finding rental of the Community Center space not financially conducive and have been showing interest of renting space at the Horizon property.

Barbara Kramer asked the Selectman as to where they stood in hiring a caretaker to provide security and day-to-day management of the Horizon property. Richard Powell said presently the responsibility has been assigned to the DPW.

Marc Bluestein asked what do we need to do for the November Town Meeting. Do we need a placeholder?

Jay Bronstein motioned to put a placeholder for the November meeting to secure funds for a Planner. Diane Pankow seconded the motion. All Committee members voted in favor.

Richard Powell said that the Committee is to address the Selectman in writing their overall consensus as to the future of the Horizon property development, the environment aspects and Community usage.

5: 9:10 **Committee Members**

Marc Bluestein mentioned to the Selectman the composition of Committee members now that there is an opening. Do we need to replace these individuals? Richard Powell said to send a letter stating that the Committee chose to downsize from 14 members to 13.

6: 9:20 **Docks for the Waterfront**

Gary Bluestein informed the Selectman that Horizons borrowed the docks from Camp Gannett for summer camp usage. Camp Gannett is willing to sell the docks to Horizon at a cost of \$2-3K and Gary questioned as to how to go about moving forward to purchase. Can we negotiate the price? Ben Puritz said that he would work with Gary Bluestein.

7: 9:25 **Future Meetings**

The Committee voted in favor of moving the meetings from Monday to Tuesday evenings beginning September 16 at 7:30 pm at the Sharon Community Center on the second floor.

8: 9:26 **Old Business**

Nothing to report

9: 9:27 **New Business**

Barbara Kramer suggested that the Committee revisit the 6 planner's proposals and studies and be discussed at the next Horizon Committee meeting.

10: 9:30 **Meeting Calendar**  
.           September 16 – Recreation Department  
              October 7 – Lee Shapiro  
              October 28

11: 9:35 **Motion to Adjourn** meeting made by Barbara Kramer and Jay Bronstein  
          seconded. Mike Bossin asked if all in favor to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted  
Gary Bluestein  
/Micki Baker