

**FERRISBURGH TOWN CENTER  
MEETING MINUTES  
9/18/2013**

Open 6:30

Present: Bonnie Barnes, Jean Richarson, Rick Kerschner, Lindsey Brown

Absent: Keith Wagner, Richard Morin

August minutes approved.

1. Birdseye Properties

Brett Combs, Birdseye Construction, presented the company's plan to demolish the two remaining Hawkin's houses and garage on the now, Birdseye property. It's in consideration to the town and to the Town Center Committee that he made this visit. He explained that the usefulness and/ or safety of the buildings had been explored and found very wanting. The buildings are old and neglected, needing major repairs, and costing lots of money. They are not, he said, in the real estate business and hope not to be. The fire department has conducted live fire drills in one of the buildings. The other two properties are too dangerous to use even for fire drills, so the buildings must go.

Birdseye figures a time closer to winter to complete this task. They are aware of and prepared to handle the identified areas constructed with asbestos, and the lead containing windows. They plan to create a green space with grass and shade trees, which will present well to the community.

Discussion followed, thanking Brett for this show of consideration.

Ideas were generated to find ways to best use the time between now and the demolition -to apprise the community of this decision (why, when, how), to do research about the Hawkin's property, its history, and to acknowledge the families that inhabited those homes as our neighbors, and to collect historical images.

-to plant trees, (maple?) marking the site of each removed building in memoriam.

-create an architect-type image of what the finished property might look like... to advertise the positive and pleasing end product.

-there are two art installations created by local resident artist, Richard Morin, hanging one to each house, that can be seen from Route 7. A community member has requested these art pieces to serve as a memorial to departed loved ones. Further conversations about this will follow.

(The committee hopes to do much of this follow-through, in house:

Jean would like to research property deeds and history.

The committee is requesting Keith, 😊, to create a proposed finished-site sketch of the property. And might he suggest where best to obtain larger, healthy, and cost-friendly maple trees.

Every member can help with history, and tree procurement options.

2. Brown Church

Kudos to Lindsey for the progress in finding a childcare provider, Nichole Fernandez Little, who has presented a proposal to open a daycare center in the Brown Church.

Nichole will present to the Selectboard 9/18 with her proposal, (Lindsey will introduce her). So far she has toured the church with Red and Lindsey, she has communicated with the building committee, and has requested pertinent reports; word from fire marshal, septic system status, etc. She is also investigating insurance coverage and the appropriate time to start said coverage.

There are several grants available to defray costs that she and Lindsey are exploring. These cannot be requested until plans are set and in place. (Rules and regs) and a lease is signed. The committee is fully behind exploring Nichole's efforts and wish to support her in every way they can.

### 3.TAC sidewalk study

On September 5, Jenny Austin of D&K presented to the public and to the Selectboard a summary of work to date.

On September 20, Jenny will present the final project draft to the Regional Planning Commission.

(it's looking like, although one might wish for more, we get the minimal amount of sidewalk to be able to provide a crosswalk to enable folks across the road and reach the school grounds/town green safely.)

After the 20th, a meeting date will be announced.

Meeting closed: 7:40 pm

Notes submitted 9/20/2023

Annie Cohn

On file with Pam, should be Nichole's proposal, TAC summary, Building Committee meeting minutes.