

Bromfield House Committee
January 27, 2021
7pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Rich Maiore, Steven Ford, Pam Marston, SusanMary Redinger, Bill Ference, Pat Jennings

Public participating:, Jim Lee, Bev Rodriguez, Pete Jackson

Rich Maiore called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

The minutes of the 12/16/20 and 1/30/21 were approved by roll call vote as amended on a motion by Pat Jennings and seconded by SusanMary Redinger.

Bill gave a preview of the responses receive so far (200) and suggested we review general categories that he has put together based on the individual responses.

Bill reviewed the criteria that we had already agreed on:

- Aesthetic impact
- Fiscally responsible
- Functionality for town residents
- Durability and sustainability
- Taking into account the conditions of the Bromfield Trust will.
- Recognition of the proximity of the lot to the schools

The committee reviewed the categories for viability and alignment with the criteria.

Ideas that were deemed viable for further consideration were:

- Sell as a private residence
- Dog park/garden/outdoor space
- Athletic fields/Softball field
- Sell house to a buyer who will move it
- Landback (Nipmuc Nation)
- Senior Housing/Affordable Housing (Rich will reach out to a developer and determine if there is a market for this option)

Ideas that were deemed not viable due to either zoning restrictions, cost, usage:

- Food Garden
- Community Center/Rec Center
- Fire Station
- Rehab the building using student and resident help, as a learning opportunity
- Commercial offices for lease

- Restaurant/ Bed & Breakfast
- Parking Lot
- Artist Studio/Group Home/Wellness Center
- Harvard Historical Society
- Still River Post Office
- Cyclist center/Snack Shop
- Leave the lot empty/undeveloped for future school use

Overall the ideas fall into one of three buckets

3 buckets:

- All ideas based on selling the house and keeping the land
- All ideas based on selling the house and the land
- Donate the land

Next steps will be to send out another survey for people to vote on their top two/three choices from the above choices and then hold two public meetings. First one will cover the ideas that fall under selling the house and keeping the land; the second will be for the ideas that fall under selling the house and the land, as well as donating the land.

Stephen brought up the need to determine the ability to implement the final choice and the need to perhaps phase options if one doesn't work out. Jim Lee reiterated that one of the next steps is to develop the process for determining viability for each option that is moved forward to the next step.

Next Steps:

- Rich will reach out to the town administrator to determine the timeline for the warrant for town meeting and when our decision needs to be finalized. Tentatively looking at the end of Feb.
- Rich and Bill will work on the survey.
- Rich may reach out to individual members to gather information on specific ideas (e.g. field development).

Ms. Redinger made a motion to adjourn. Ms Jennings seconded. By roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted respectfully,

SusanMary Redinger