

## **Revenue Ideation Committee May 4, 2002 - Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kara Minar (Chair), Jane Biering, Paul Green, Bob O'Shea, Charles Oliver, SusanMary Redinger

Kara Minar called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

### **Updates on Research:**

#### **- Leasing of Town Property for Solar or Wind Power**

Kara reported that Solar Design Associates (SDA), based in Harvard, is willing to review lists of tax-delinquent properties and undeveloped municipal lands to see if any of these locations would be viable sites for siting solar arrays.

Kara reported that Tim Bragan has suggested that the DPW building might make a good site for solar panels. He will provide Kara with a list of undeveloped municipal lands for SDA to review.

Bob suggested that the parking lot at the track might be a good site for ground-mounted solar panels.

Members again discussed the question of whether the two nearby National Grid sub-stations are at capacity or would be willing to accept additional power. Paul reflected that we are not likely to get an answer from National Grid until we have a solid proposal.

**Kara will give SDA the two property lists (tax-delinquent parcels and undeveloped municipal lands) and will invite SDA to one of the Committee's upcoming meetings. She will also add the parking lot at the track to the list of sites to evaluate.**

Bob asked whether anyone has looked into using solar power to provide hot water for either or both of the schools. His experience is that solar hot water systems are relatively inexpensive to set up and can provide substantial savings on oil bills. SusanMary believes that Bromfield would probably be the better candidate for such a system.

**SusanMary will follow up on this.**

#### **- Leasing of Cell Towers on Town Land**

Members discussed what estimates have been given for the likely financial benefit to the Town. Several members recollected that the estimate is about \$42,000.

**Kara will follow up on this.**

#### **- Securing Corporate Sponsorship of Town Assets – Ballfields, Trails, etc.**

Kara reported that Dan Daly has offered to look into how much revenue might be raised by getting sponsors for the Town's playing fields. Bob and others commented that any such funds raised would go to benefit the Harvard Athletic Association rather than the Town.

### **- Transfer Fee to Support Affordable Housing**

Jane noted that there has not been any recent action on Senate Bill #868, the bill that would allow municipalities in Massachusetts to assess transfer fees on the sale of certain residential properties, the proceeds of which would go to supporting affordable housing. It appears that if no action is taken before the May 9 deadline, the bill may die this year. Members discussed possible actions, such as encouraging Sen. Jamie Eldridge to re-file the bill.

### **- Tax Delinquent Properties / Sale of Town Land**

Kara noted that Tim Bragan mentioned a parcel that owes \$100,000 in back property taxes but is not on the list that the Committee has seen.

**Kara will follow up with Tim Bragan to ensure that we have the most up-to-date and complete list of tax-delinquent properties.**

### **- Sale of Surplus Buildings and Equipment**

Kara noted that there have been no takers on attempts to sell the Still River Fire Station and that any attempt to sell the damaged fire engine is stymied by the existing lawsuit.

Paul pointed out that protracted lawsuits benefit neither party, just the attorneys. He encouraged us to try to settle the dispute, perhaps by attempting to get a summary judgment.

**Kara will see if settling the fire engine lawsuit can be added to an upcoming Select Board meeting. Kara will also look into the current valuation for the Still River Fire Station.**

### **- Renting Out Town Properties for Events**

Members discussed the fees for renting out Town Hall for events. The \$750 cost includes a \$250 insurance premium (for \$1 million coverage), so the benefit to the Town is relatively low at \$500.

### **Organizing and Writing RIC Report**

Kara noted that the time is fast approaching when the Committee needs to finalize its findings.

**Kara will send out an outline of the RIC Report to members.**

**Members will review the outline and consider which items they will offer to write up.**

**Charles will take responsibility for writing the section on putting solar arrays on select Town building rooftops, including the DPW building.**

**Jane will take responsibility for writing the section on transfer fees.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Paul Green moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting. Charles Oliver seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Future Meetings**

Members agreed on the following meeting dates: May 10, May 24, and May 31.

## **Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm by unanimous vote on a motion by Jane Biering, seconded by Paul Green.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Biering  
Member, Revenue Ideation Committee