



Town of Waitsfield
TOWN OFFICE TASK FORCE
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Waitsfield Selectboard appointed a Waitsfield Town Office Task Force (TOTF) in 2010 to assess space needs, evaluate the various site options, solicit public input and make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the expansion or relocation of the Town Office; and,

WHEREAS, the TOTF met regularly beginning October, 2010 and established the following guiding principals:

1. The town's future office needs should be coordinated with planning to meet the future needs of the library.
2. The town office should remain in one of the two designated village centers (Waitsfield Village and Irasville) to reinforce the town's longstanding land use, transportation and infrastructure policies.
3. New or expanded town offices should meet the town's long term needs (e.g., serve the town for 50+ years) either through initial construction or a potential for future expansion.
4. The town office should enhance Waitsfield's built environment and sense of civic pride through quality design and construction, and should serve as a model for energy efficiency.
5. The decision to expand or relocate the town office should be based on a realistic understanding of the Town's fiscal outlook and the impact on taxpayers.
6. The decision to expand or relocate the town office is ultimately a decision of the voters, and any proposals made by the Town Office Task Force should be the result of an inclusive public outreach effort that provides meaningful opportunities for Waitsfield's citizens to weigh in.

And,

WHEREAS, the TOTF hired Maclay Architects to evaluate suitable town office sites and then held public meetings on February 3rd 2011, February 9th, March 6th and April 30th, 2012 to present information, discuss options, and hear citizens' thoughts, ideas, concerns, and other considerations. In these public meetings it was found that the residents of Waitsfield prefer the Town Office be located outside of the flood area, on Route 100(Main Street), in the Historic Waitsfield Village; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of Waitsfield, at the 2012 Town Meeting authorized the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund of \$35,000 for the expansion or relocation of the Town Office facility;

WHEREAS, the Flemer family provided the TOTF with preliminary prices for two properties that are superior sites for possible town office locations and they will honor these prices until the end of June 2012;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that after numerous site evaluations with multiple public meetings, the committee recommends the Flemer's Farm Stand Site to the Selectboard as the future site of the Waitsfield Town Office. In addition, the TOTF requests that the Selectboard enter into an agreement, as soon as possible, with the present owners to arrange an option to purchase the recommended site. The TOTF also requests the Selectboard to authorize the use of the reserve funds to pay for an in-depth design, engineering and cost study which is necessary to develop information for a future bond vote.

AND, during the process of site evaluations and public hearings the Flemer's Barn(s) Site was found to have land and buildings of significant value to the Town of Waitsfield and its residents. The TOTF recommends that the Selectboard enter into an agreement with the present owners, as soon as possible, to arrange an option to purchase this additional property. The TOTF also recommends that the Selectboard authorize use of the Restroom/Recreation/Conservation reserve fund to pay for the option on this property.

Approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the Waitsfield Town Office Task Force held on the 14th day of June, 2012.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Peterson".

Jennifer Peterson
Town Clerk