



TOWN OF PRINCETON
Facilities Steering Committee, Phase II
www.town.princeton.ma.us
September 20, 2018

To: Residents of Princeton
From: Facilities Steering Committee, Phase II

The Facilities Steering Committee was established in 2017 by the Selectboard. This committee was formed in response to the unanimous vote at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting to approve a planning effort to “conduct a buildings study for the functions of Bagg Hall, the Public Safety Complex, Town Hall Annex, and Princeton Center”. The final report of this committee was released on March 30, 2018, and is available on the town website.

Based on the report recommendations, articles were placed on the 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to appropriate funds for the repair and stabilization of Bagg Hall, Town Hall Annex and current Public Safety Complex. These articles passed and planning for these projects has commenced. Based on the report recommendations, an article was placed on the town meeting warrant to appropriate funds for the design and construction of a new Public Safety Building at the Princeton Center School site. This appropriation was contingent upon the town voting to approve a proposition 2½ debt exclusion at a town election. This article passed at the town meeting but the proposition 2½ debt exclusion did not pass at the town election.

The Selectboard established the Facilities Steering Committee, Phase II, in August. This committee is charged with making recommendations on how to move forward with the public safety facility needs and developing and executing the communication of information to share with voters for a fall special town meeting to secure funding for the development of plans and construction documents for a new public safety building to be built at the Princeton Center School site. A vote to fund the construction would happen at a later date. The new Facilities Steering Committee, Phase II, will use a variety of forums and formats to communicate to the Princeton voters. Forums will include the Light Department mailer, the town website, Nextdoor Princeton, the Landmark and meetings. Formats will include questions and answers, meeting minutes, reports and presentations. We encourage your ideas and suggestions for improving the plans.

Princeton voters are encouraged to participate by reading the materials published, attending meetings and asking questions. Please participate and learn what is happening in your town!

We will start this process with several questions and answers. Please look for more on other forums in the coming days.

- Are we voting for the same thing again?

No, we are not. The committee is collecting information to develop recommendations. Our objective is to ask for existing funds to be used for the preparation of design and construction documents for a new public safety facility. These documents are expected to lead to lower

cost estimates for construction of the building.

- Why can't we just repair the existing public safety building?

Jones Whitsett Architects (JWA) concluded that the current facility lacks critical spaces for safe operation by both the fire and police. They cited this as a "major concern." In addition, JWA found a number of issues with the building (listed below) that led them to conclude that "the building is not worth saving."

- Roof sags over garages due to truss overstress
- Severe chloride related damage within concrete vault space below police garage bay which threatens radio equipment
- Asphalt roof is in poor shape
- Ingress of water at the rear
- All mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are at the end of their useful life
- Wood clapboards, soffits and fascia are in poor shape
- Fire equipment barely fits (by inches) – damaging vehicles, the building, and restricts future vehicle size

- Why do we need two fire stations?

We need two buildings to avoid having half of Princeton residents outside of a five-mile radius of a fire station. This would dramatically increase homeowner's insurance or cause some homes to be considered uninsurable.

- Where can I get more information?

There are presentations, videos, and reports on the Facilities Steering Committee webpage. This webpage will be updated regularly.

http://town.princeton.ma.us/Pages/PrincetonMA_BComm/facilitiessteer

- Who can I contact if I have more questions?

You can email the Facilities Steering Committee at princetonfscomm@gmail.com. We encourage you to attend our weekly meetings every Monday at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

Facilities Steering Committee, Phase II, members:

Richard Chase, Chair

Larry Todd, Clerk

Noelani Chase

Rick McCowan

Dennis Moore

Chief John Bennett, representing the fire department