



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

#### Symonds Way Exploratory Committee

Date: 2023-05-02

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Draft

#### Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Chair Carlo Bacci, Vice Chair Chuck Robinson, Angela Binda, Heather Clish, Karen Janowski, Nancy Twomey

#### **Members - Not Present:**

Andrew Dribin

#### **Others Present:**

Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Eric Boemer, Karen Gately Herrick (remote), Anna DeNardo (remote), Jackie McCarthy (remote)

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Jacquelyn LaVerde

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#### **Topics of Discussion:**

This meeting was held in-person in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room and remotely via Zoom.

#### **Discuss Issuing a Request for Information (RFI) on potential private/public partnerships for the property on Symonds Way:**

The Committee discussed issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to invite potential developers to come up with proposals for uses of the site. An RFI is non-binding, and a contract cannot be executed from it. They compared the recent RFI from Wellesley and noted that the RFI that community issued was very specific and had been in development for a year.

The Committee expressed concern for issuing an RFI without knowing more about what is needed, and suggested developing a master plan for the area, having a site plan to clarify what is developable, discussing the best use of the property, scheduling a public forum, and hearing from other committees.

#### **Discuss and Vote on Recommending that the Select Board modify the charge of SWEC to include a larger view of Town Owned Land surrounding the Property:**

The consensus of the Committee was to expand the scope of the charge to include all the adjacent Town-owned parcels on Symonds Way, but it would be beneficial to have guidance from the Conservation Administrator on how much and what land would be developable.

Heather Clish noted that the charge just says the Symonds Way land, and while it was understood in Select Board discussions that it referred to the parcel purchased at Town Meeting in 2019, it may be as simple as asking the Select Board to update and clarify the charge. Carlo Bacci stated that he would request to include it on the agenda for discussion at the next Select Board meeting.

**On a motion by Heather Clish, and seconded by Carlo Bacci, the Symonds Way Exploratory Committee voted 6-0-0 to encourage the Chair of SWEC to request that the Select Board update and clarify the SWEC charge to look at potential uses for all Town-owned land surrounding Symonds Way, with the specific area to be determined by the Conservation Agent.**

**Discuss adding a member from the Reading Ice Arena Authority to SWEC:**

The Committee discussed including a member of the Ice Arena Authority to the SWEC. Because a representative of the Ice Arena Authority is not part of the Town's volunteer status, and would be very specific to the Ice Arena's needs, members of the Committee agreed that it would not be appropriate to include them on the Committee. Though the Committee does want to hear their feedback throughout the process.

**Discuss Next Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items:**

The Committee will discuss the criteria for evaluating projects at the next meeting scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

**On a motion by Karen Janowski, and seconded by Angela Binda, the Symonds Way Exploratory Committee voted 6-0-0 to adjourn at 8:25 pm.**