

## Minutes Hilltop Commissions

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

Meeting convened 6 PM

Those in attendance; Mayor Hilliard, City Manager Bob Bellmore. City Finance Director Scott Smith, School Superintendent Jeni Mosca, Councilor Jessica Paradis, State of NH Department of Resources Peter Michaud, Chris Smith, Madeline DeSantis, Chris spouse of Karen Terletsky, Sarah McGraw and Chair Councilor Martin Dumont.

Mayor Dana Hilliard addressed the commission with his vision as to the direction and reason for this commission. Explaining there were no limits as to the considerations to be presented to the Somersworth City Council at their first meeting in October.

Madeline DeSantis Chair of the Somersworth Historic District presented the commission with documents from the history of the Friends of Somersworth efforts in pursuing the potential reuse of Hilltop School. Copies were given to commission members.

Peter Michaud presented the various grant potentials for profit and non profit approach to funding any re use considerations Peter explained and suggested the need for a more comprehensive historic assessment. Peter will work with the commission as needed to help them reach their goal.

City Manager Bellmore talked about the task at hand and has selected city finance director Smith as his designee for this commission as well but also plans on attending our meetings as his schedule will allow.

City finance director Smith explained different types of bonding and funding sources for this project. In addition some discussion was had as to the value the city would gain should a recommendation of selling the school to a private developer.

Councilor Paradis offered her knowledge as to the effect on a potential Charter School at Hilltop. Superintendent Mosca also participated in this explanation. The summary of which indicates it would have a negative on revenue for the schools currently.

Peter Michaud suggested that at one of our next meetings we might consider a brainstorming and recording of various uses and vision of a template to follow moving forward with the efforts of this commission. A matrix of these recordings would then help in the achievement of the goals of the commission.

It was decided that our next meeting would be for the purpose of doing as Mr. Michaud had recommended.

The commission agreed that our next meeting would be the March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM at City Hall in the Executive conference room. In addition it was agreed we would have additional meetings as needed beyond the regularly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. It was also agreed that smaller ad-hoc committees would possibly be set up for the purpose of using the member's special expertise to consider re use issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted

Martin P. Dumont

