

Minutes of the meeting of the
RTM Long Range Planning Committee
August 28, 2013
Town Hall Room 201/Auditorium, 7:30 pm

LRP Committee

Present: Jonathan Cunitz (Chair), Lois Schine, Dewey Loselle, Jack Klinge,
Allen Bomes, Velma Heller, Carla Rea

Absent: Wendy Batteau, Matthew Mandel

Also in attendance: Fire Chief Andrew Kingsbury and other members of the Fire Department, First Selectman Gordon Joseloff and members of the public.

Agenda: Comments and discussion by RTM members and the public on plans for the Saugatuck fire station.

Fire Chief Andrew Kingsbury spoke noting that there is an important need for a better and enlarged location for the Saugatuck Fire Station. Concern has been heightened since Storm Sandy when efforts to block flooding of the Saugatuck Fire Station failed. It is important to have a station located on the west side of the Saugatuck River because there are occasions when fire vehicles cannot easily get across the river from the east side. The Fire Chief pointed out that among other problems, there is not always enough room for the HazMat vehicle inside the main fire station.

It was noted that no site had been selected as yet and there is a need to identify possible sites. First Selectman Gordon Joseloff pointed out that no proposal has been made by him nor will one be made during his administration. It was mentioned that the Board of Finance has suggested that a consultant be hired to study this issue. There have been past discussions with Norwalk and Wilton about joint coverage but no plans ever were developed.

Many residents spoke about using the 427 Riverside Avenue site for a new fire station. Comments reflected concerns about the environment, traffic and the loss of open space. Suggestions were offered for alternate sites.

The Fire Chief and members of the Committee felt that this meeting was very helpful. E-mail addresses were collected so that those in attendance can be kept informed on future progress of this project.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Schine