

Real Property Committee Minutes
May 22, 2023

The Real Property Committee held a Special Meeting on Monday May 22, 2023 at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Present: Helen Garten, Martin Fox, Greg Kraut, Eileen Flug, Elaine Daignault

The Committee considered the proposed renovations to Town property located at 45 Jesup Road (the Gillespie Center) and the 15 year use restriction requested by the CT Department of Housing as a condition to the Town's receipt of a \$1.2 million grant that will cover the renovation cost. Following discussion, Committee members recommended that the Town agree to the 15 year use restriction for the following reasons:

1. Homes with Hope has leased and operated the Gillespie Center as a homeless shelter for decades and this use has repeatedly been approved by Town Boards as an appropriate use for this building.
2. The proposed renovations, which will be paid for by the grant, include significant health and safety upgrades and will extend the useful life of the structure at no cost to the Town.
3. The Town benefits from maintaining a safe homeless and food insecurity shelter for residents in need, and a central downtown location is the most appropriate site.
4. The Town has no need for the building for offices or other municipal purposes.
5. The principal risk associated with a 15 year use restriction is the unlikely possibility that Homes with Hope can no longer operate the shelter. In that case, it is likely that another not for profit would agree to assume the responsibility and/or the Town could operate it.
6. Homes with Hope will be responsible, at its expense, for finding alternative shelter for Gillespie residents during the construction period.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Helen Garten, Chair, for the Real Property Committee