At the beginning of this year, the Carver Police Station Advisory Building Committee was formed with the express intent of bringing forward the best ideas for a new police station over the next fifty years. The committee was charged with hiring an Owner’s Project Manager and an Architect to design a new police station appropriate to the needs of the department now and into the future. To date, Town Meeting has approved $5,155,000 and authorized the Town Administrator to implement the project.

The Committee has had numerous public meetings since March gathering information to determine the size, scope and location of the new police station. In addition to hiring both an Owner’s Project Manager and an Architect, the committee has visited many new police stations in the area and has received input from an Internal Building Committee made up of officers and dispatchers.

Information from the numerous studies done in the past, including the latest completed by MRI last winter was used to assess potential growth of the town and the department. A space needs assessment was conducted looking at the current program of the department and what that may look like in the future. This information helped to define the size of the building needed to accommodate the current and future needs of the department.

Both single story and two story options were explored. The single story option proved to be the most efficient and economical facility to build. Whereas the two story option created logistical conflicts in the inner workings of the department.

The location of the new facility is another important factor that has been considered by the Committee. In addition to being able to fit the building, there are several desirable traits that the right location must have. Including being located in the center of town as close to Main Street as possible; this is important for ease of access and ability to get to in and out during an emergency. The Police Department is the only Public Safety building that is currently staffed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and needs to be easy, quickly accessible by those in a crisis situation.

Another very important reason to be located in the center is the close proximity to both schools. In the event of an emergency at either campus, every officer would respond. Many of those officers work at the station and would respond from that location. While a patrol officer may be deployed anywhere in town and would have a response time corresponding to wherever they are, officers assigned to the station could effectively be at either school in under 2 minutes.
The location must also be able to provide sufficient area for parking of civilian vehicles, police vehicles and impounded vehicles. The rear of the building should be secured and provide room to park the Firearms Trailer that the department currently borrows each year to conduct firearms training as well as an area to use for training purposes and an out building which can provide a very economical solution to storage needs, large evidence processing and a physical training area. Finally, the location should provide sufficient space for possible future expansion needs.

In the search for the right location, the committee looked at the current location, but rejected it as it is insufficient in size to accommodate the building and other considerations discussed above. Further problems with using the current site, include the cost to temporarily house the department during demolition and construction and the need to relocate all of the 911 equipment and other servers during that time. Other town owned locations on Pond Street and Rochester Road do not fit the requirement to remain centrally located, in close proximity to both schools. Even Shurtleff Park was considered, but rejected for obvious reasons including its historical significance to the town.

In looking at potential sites, the committee settled on recommending the location north of the library, which would require the relocation of the playground. This idea was not considered lightly, especially considering the department’s community policing approach that we have fostered over the past several years. I have a great deal of respect for all the hard work that went into building the playground. Any discussion of using the site, must include a plan to move it, improve it and bring those pieces that have such great meaning to the community. I believe we have that plan in place. The youth of this community are very important and have been the focus of our efforts to help ensure they grow up in a safe and good environment.

This location best fits the needs of a police station that I have mentioned. Deciding to use it for that purpose also provides a fantastic opportunity for the town to expand the recreation area, improve the ballfields and bathrooms and create a playground that will be here for years to come.

Carver does need a new police station. Carver also needs recreational space for our youth. This project needs to benefit the entire community. We have a plan that can do both, creating a win win situation for the community as a whole.

Please join the Police Station Advisory Building Committee presentation on Monday December 3, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Library where you can see the process that we have gone through to arrive at this recommendation. We look forward to sharing our vision with the community and listening to any input you have that will help us hone our plans for the future!

Sincerely,

Marc R. Duphily