

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Board of Selectmen Chairman Mary Walter called the hearing to order at 7 PM in the Senior Center with fellow Selectmen Chabot and Petraitis also present. There were several residents and interested parties in attendance. (See sign-in sheet)

Chairman Walter began by explaining that the Town will be applying for another EPA Cleanup Grant for 57 School Street, which is a portion of the Downtown Development site. Mrs. Walter had a draft copy of the application for review, and explained that the draft copy is also available for viewing in the Selectmen's office at 215 North Main Street.

Resident Suzanne Lewandowski asked for an update on the progress at the site. Mrs. Walter explained that the Town is just finishing up the cleanup on the 14 South Common Street parcel using EPA Cleanup funds. Work on two other parcels, 55 School Street and 10 Grove Street was previously completed. This new grant will be used to clean the 57 School Street portion of the property, after which it will be covered with gravel and stone like the previously cleaned portions.

Mrs. Walter also explained that the fact that the entire site has not yet been remediated has been an obstacle to the Quabaug Corporation leasing the property.

Richard Chabot stated that the fact that the North Brookfield Railroad will be reactivated in the near future should also be noted in the grant application, as the railroad will serve potential developers of this site.

Mrs. Walter noted that this site has a "Priority Project " designation from Mass Development that would allow a developer up to \$2,000,000.00 for site assessment and/or remediation financing. This could prove very valuable to any potential developer.

Resident Stephen Fogarty stated that he is a very close neighbor to the site, and he is in favor of cleaning the site and restoring it to a successful reuse of the property.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at 7:30 PM.