

MILTON FIRE STATIONS – Info Session #3 (East)

23 May 2019 Council on Aging, 7-9 PM

Present:	Chief Grant	Milton Fire Department Chief
	Brian Walsh	Chair, Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC)
	Dan Clark	Vice-Chair, Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC)
	John King	Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC)
	Jeff Shaw	Context Architecture (CTX)
	Angela Campbell	Context Architecture (CTX)

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Brian introduced purpose of the information sessions, and then introduced Dan Clark who explained FSBC's progress to date. Dan discussed the FSBC study that was completed in the Fall that evaluated run-time for emergency response based on existing fire station locations in the town. Jeff presented firm's fire station projects highlighting the design process, historic preservation, and general aspects and considerations for fire station design. Projects included Westford Fire Station, Arlington's Fire Headquarters and Highland Substation and Andover Ballardvale Fire Station.

Comments/questions from the public:

- Brian noted that based on the results of run-time analysis, 4.6 % is not covered. Dan reviewed the run-time analysis provided by the consultant and their conclusions.
- Dan discussed the alternatives of moving the East Fire station to a location further west and the implications. There would be .33% increase to the response-time which is minor.
- Chief Grant discussed the need for a new East Station and the reasoning behind moving to a new site. Both safety and comfort for the firemen and public is part of the decision to design a new station. The technology and studies that are now available show the need for improved health and safety: separating the living quarters from the areas with contaminants; accessibility standards for the public; types of gear and storing the gear along with difficulty of traffic at the existing site all point to the need for a new fire station
- Safety concerns in regards to the apparatus truck entering the intersection were discussed; a clear visual of 40-60' is an ideal distance for safety reasons when leaving the apparatus bay on a call and that is not possible where it exists
- East Milton site selection is on-going; Dan Clark discussed the FSBC's investigation into adding a parcel, building adjacent to East Milton Station, which could work but less desirable and the committee felt would be a low probability outcome. Dan could not comment any further on-site options
- Context will develop Schematic Design and with the FSBC input will finalize the design concept for all (3) stations with an update provided at the Town Meeting in October. The Fall and Winter of 2020 will allow time to establish funding and review costs prior to a final vote. Mobilization and construction phase could start sometime in May 2020.
- Jeff reviewed the design and construction of Arlington, Westford and Andover Ballardville fire stations.
- Dan mentioned the options that were considered as part of the search for a viable site for the East Station; Cunningham Trust was approached but it was decided it was not an appropriate fit for a fire station. Several properties are being considered and there is an RFP for nearby sites that has a



deadline of May 30th. The committee will weigh the options at that time. The committee is not currently considering the East Milton Library Branch as an option.

- Brian pointed out the need for a quick response time now that homes typically have a faster burn rate due to “open-concept” floor plans and flammable materials. On average, you would have 7 minutes to exit a burning home, but now that has been reduced to roughly 3 minutes.
- Chief Grant discussed the response time difficulty from the existing East station due to the Highway location and the potential loss of response time due to traffic
- East Milton station will have very good coverage based on the study and proposed new location options
- Once the East Station site is chosen, the FSBC will propose several Information Session to review the site selection and schematic design concept to allow for public feedback.
- Question was brought as to whether an additional ambulance could be housed at one of the substations. NFPA guidelines suggest an 8-minute response time is appropriate but that fire apparatus have the fastest response times. Currently Fallon has one ambulance dedicated to the Town of Milton.
- Question was posed: can Headquarters station be larger to accommodate two ambulances? Canton Ave is the ideal location for headquarters due to ease of access. Two ambulances are being accommodated as part of the design process but that decision is not up to the FSBC
- Using the park where gazebo is situated in front of Town Hall has been discussed but the solution is not ideal. The idea of using the baseball field portion of the park area for the addition / new headquarters has been taken off the table.
- Context will include as part of their design effort a buffer zone between residential area and the fire station
- A 2-station model for the town was considered but based on the research, on average there would be 187 calls which would not receive the response time required. Much of the Houghton’s Pond and north side of Eliot would be underserved and so the 2-station model was abandoned
- The committee plans to choose a site and perform design work before going back to conduct an informational meeting with the public (specifically East Milton residents).
- Residents suggested that losing the cultural art center for East Milton would be detrimental. Brian pointed out that it would be considered as a “last resort” only.

The Fire Station Building Committee thanked the attendees for their feedback and noted that an additional information session will be planned, tentatively mid-July to review progress on the East Milton Fire Station site selection.