



**Fire Department Facilities Review Committee
Status Report to the Selectboard
April 28, 2015**

Whereas the Killington Fire and Rescue Department facilities are in disrepair and no longer meet state criteria or the needs of the volunteer fire department, and the Town needs to decide the best course of action for the future of these facilities, the Killington Selectboard decided to appoint a group of citizens to serve on a Fire Department Facilities Review Committee to help guide that choice. On November 11, 2014, the Killington Selectboard appointed the following five citizens: Stephen Finneron, Otto Iannantuoni, Vito Rasenas, Andrew Salamon, Andrea Weymouth.

The purpose of the Committee is to:

“Serve in an advisory capacity to the Town of Killington Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall make a recommendation to the Town on how to proceed with the renovation or reconstruction of the Fire Department Facilities. To do its work it is expected that the Committee will consider the short and long term needs of the Fire Department, review the study done by Architects, Dore and Whittier (hired by the Town to review the Fire Department facilities), consult outside experts, and foster citizen participation in the review/recommendation process.”

Furthermore, the Selectboard asked that the Town Manager and Fire Department attend the Committee Meetings to participate.

The Committee has met six times between December and April to tour the current fire station, review the facilities assessment and building feasibility study completed by Dore and Whittier Architects, interview Fire Department and Town officials about operations and requirements, analyze cost estimates and financing options, and review alternative building sites.

The committee unanimously determined that: *“The current site is inadequate to meet the current needs and future needs of the Killington Fire Station and renovating the existing structure is not cost effective. Our (the committee’s) recommendation is to build a new structure on an alternate site.”*(February 2, 2015 Motion)

To expand on this, the committee noted at their April meeting that the current fire station does not meet state building codes and has to be repaired or rebuilt. The committee believes that since it would cost over \$2.5 million just to bring the building to code (without addressing any of the Fire Department’s needs) and the facility would still partially be on someone else’s land, it

doesn't make sense to invest in the current site. One member summed up the issue, "It would take a lot of money to renovate the old facility, and when we got through, we'd have the same problems: There isn't enough space inside, and there isn't enough space outside. We need a new site."

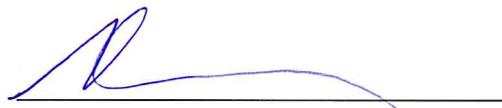
As a result of these findings, the committee unanimously opined that: *"The Town of Killington must allocate funds to assess potential sites. This assessment includes an investigation and a feasibility study for the building of the new fire station. This assessment is required before further committee work can continue.* (February 23, 2015 Motion)

To assist with the assessment and next steps, the committee plans to visit potential (alternative) sites in May, issue a report to the Selectboard on its findings, and visit other fire stations in Vermont to learn about cost effective building strategies.

Finally, to help share its findings with Town voters, the committee will host a series of Open House Days at the Fire Station on Killington Rd. later this summer and fall. The committee intends to invite all voters to visit the station and see firsthand why the Town needs to invest in a new facility.

On April 28th, the Committee ratified this status report to the Selectboard. A copy of all the committee's meeting minutes are posted at killingtontown.com under Boards & Commissions/Selectboard/Fire Department Facilities Review Committee.


Stephen Finneron, Chair


Vito Rasenas


Otto Iannantuoni


Andrew Salamon

Andrea Weymouth.

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