

WMRLS Executive Board Meeting

March 17, 2014

The meeting of the WMRLS Executive Board was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by William Adamczyk, President.

Present: MLS Executive Board Members: William Adamczyk, Charlotte Canelli (by phone), Tim Gerolami, Millie Gonzalez (by phone), Betty Johnson, Ellen Keane (by phone), Amy Lewontin, Margot Malachowski (1:53pm), Patrick Marshall, Jacqueline Rafferty (by phone), Bert Saul, Henry Toromoreno, John Walsh (by phone), Sarah Watkins

Ex-officio: Greg Pronevitz, MLS Ex. Director; Dianne Carty, MBLC; Anna Fahey-Flynn, LFC

Guests: Catherine Utt; Carolyn Noah; Steve Spohn; N. Janeen Resnick, Marlene Heroux

Minutes from January 2014 meeting approved. Motion-Tim Second-Patrick. Unanimous.

Whately Facility Discussion/ action on offer to purchase and letters of intent

Offer to purchase was received last week from company which is in the process of purchasing neighboring building. \$810,000 short sale price. 18 month lease back option for MLS to use office space.

Tri-Town regional ambulance service is interested in working with MLS to find a purchase or lease agreement for the Whately building. Letters of interest were received from Whately and Sunderland selectboards. Representative Kulik and Senator Rosenberg contacted Greg to ask that MLS consider working with the Tri-Town regional ambulance service. Greg spoke with the towns and invited them to today's meeting.

Visitors: Lynn Sibley (Whately), Thomas Fydenkevez (Sunderland), Mark Gilmore (Deerfield), Doug Finn (Frontier Community Access TV), Robert Ahearn (Sunderland), Gary Stone (Whately), Casey Warren

Representatives for the three towns interested in the building stated that the location is ideal for their purpose. MA laws complicate purchase especially with more than one town involved. Towns have a good working relationship. They will seek legal counsel opinion on handling of purchase or lease of Whately building. Deerfield would probably be designated the fiscal agent. Need for three town meeting approvals complicates negotiation. Senior center is a possible occupant for building in conjunction with the ambulance service. FCATV is also interested in using some of the space. It was stated that 10 days were needed to get answer on whether the purchase could be placed on town meeting warrants in the three towns. MLS Board thanked the representatives for coming and answering questions.

Executive Board discussion of purchase offer and tri-town interest to purchase or lease continued after visitors left. Private company offer is in hand; prospect of an offer from tri-town group is nebulous. Board has a fiduciary role to membership and also desire to shed the landlord status which uses resources and staff time. Greg acknowledged that there is a political aspect to this discussion because the towns approached Kulik and Rosenberg for their support. It is the Executive Board job to choose option that is in the best interest of MLS. It is the responsible move to sell privately as leasing is not the first choice.

Motion to approve WMRLS resolution for sale of building with terms and conditions prepared by council. Motion-Patrick; Second-Margot. Unanimous.

Greg will contact the buyer, the three towns, and the legislators with the Board decision. If the private deal falls through, the Board will focus on working with the Tri-Town ambulance service.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m. Motion-Patrick; Second-Bert.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Johnson
Clerk

Attachment-