



Fire / Emergency Medical Service Advisory Task Group



"To study feasibility and report to Board of Selectmen on pending proposal for new Fire/EMS Station in North Acton."

E-Mail: FEATG@Acton-MA.gov

2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 22 A

The FIRE/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ADVISORY TASK GROUP ("FEATG"), was established in early March 2007 for the purpose of studying the feasibility of the pending proposal to construct a Fire/EMT station in North Acton.

FEATG membership of twenty-four individuals is composed of an Acton Selectmen, town staff, town fire and police department personnel, representatives from a number of town committees and groups, plus citizens at large. FEATG is organized into a seven-person Steering Committee and six Task Forces with varying numbers of individuals. The Steering Committee is chaired by Dore' Hunter, Acton Selectman, and the Task Forces are headed by an individual within each unit selected by its membership. Other members of the Steering Committee are: Robert Craig, Mark Hald, Robert Evans, W. Arthur Gagne' and Charles Kadlec.

The FEATG Task Forces are: Architect Selection; Apparatus Review; Communication and Technology; Financial; Public Information; and Site Location.

All units of the FEATG are already underway working within their scope of interest and schedule meetings, open to the public, as needed. The name of each Task Forces is self-explanatory and identifies its scope of interest. Steering Committee meetings, also open to the public, are every other Monday evening at 7:00 PM in the Faulkner Room, Acton Town Hall. Their schedule alternates with the regular Monday meeting schedule of the Board of Selectmen.

All meetings of the Steering Committee and the Task Forces are posted, in advance, by the Town Clerk.

Collecting and reviewing data and putting it into meaningful form is a sequential process. So, too, is compiling the information from the different task forces. Some information is needed early on, while other data is used later. The Architect Selection Task Force will be issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in early April 2007 to establish a pool of qualified firms. Through a review process, a recommendation will be made in mid-June and a selection made as to which architectural firm will work with the FEATG to conduct a feasibility and conceptual schematic design study for a Fire/EMS station. In an October 2007 Special Town Meeting, an appropriation and authorization to proceed with the project will be requested.

FEATG can be reached by e-mail at FEATG@Acton-ma.gov. E-mail addresses for the Steering Committee and the Task Forces are available on Acton's Community TV Channel 8.

Additional information and news of FEATG activities will be forthcoming in handouts, posters and other formats available at the Town Hall and Acton's Memorial Library, TV Channel 8 and other outlets. Your input is welcome.



Fire / Emergency Medical Service Advisory Task Group



"To study feasibility and report to Board of Selectmen on pending proposal for new Fire/EMS Station in North Acton."

E-Mail: FEATG@Acton-MA.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

Q 1: Why is Warrant Article 22A (North Acton Fire Station Design) funding being reduced to \$100,000?

A: This appropriation seeks the initial funding necessary to move toward creation of a new North Acton Fire/Emergency Medical Service (hereinafter referred to as "FEMS") station to better balance emergency service response times. It has been determined that further professional assistance is necessary to assess the total funding required for design, so only a sum thought appropriate to arrive at an accurate estimate is now being sought.

Q 2: It has been previously assumed that the Center FEMS station would be shut down, and the property retained for another municipal purpose. Is that still the plan if the North Acton FEMS station is built?

A: Maybe. First, it is anticipated that the Board of Selectmen will seek funds to do major renovation work at the West and South stations. If a later Town Meeting votes to have the Center station remain in use, it should also be renovated. If a Town Meeting later *votes to have* 4 rather than 3 FEMS stations, the Center station could be renovated, manned and re-equipped as a fourth station.

Q 3: Why not start out with a 4 FEMS station plan?

A: Because we feel that the Town can be adequately served from 3 stations, if the North Acton FES is built. In addition, it is not felt that the Town can afford the additional personnel costs to properly staff 4 stations, roughly estimated to be approximately an additional million dollars per year.

Q 4: Won't the response times to some residences be increased for those who are presently served from the Center FEMS station if it is closed?

A: Yes, that is true. However, we are looking to better balance what seem to be the reasonably available resources. Looking at the predicted standard 5 minute running response times areas with and without the Center station, it seems that a relatively small number of residences will be disadvantaged, as opposed to the number of residences which will be brought *within* that standard by building a North Acton station and deactivating the Center station. A map is available to show the differing 5 minute response areas.

Q 5: But the Center FEMS station is where our only ambulance is located. If it is deactivated, won't many people be much further away from emergency medical help?

A: Not really. The current practice, while there is only 1 ambulance in use, will continue in regard to medical emergencies. That medical call practice is to dispatch, not only the ambulance, but also a pumper from the station closest to the call location. The pumpers are equipped with adequate medical gear and manned by Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians so that if they arrive first, they can and will commence providing whatever assistance is required. Transport and additional FF/EMT help will be available when the ambulance arrives if it is not the first vehicle on scene. Also, the area police cruiser responds, if available.

(Continued on reverse)

The mutual aid statistics show that Acton asks for ambulance mutual assistance twice as often as it gives it to surrounding communities, so it is acknowledged that the Town Meeting should shortly, perhaps before the North Acton station can be finished, consider adding a second ambulance, and the FF/EMTs to staff it, to the Town's emergency forces. If a second ambulance is acquired and staffed as a result of the rising medical run statistics, the Fire Chief has indicated he would most likely position one ambulance at either the West or South station, and locate the other one at the new North Acton station.

Q 6: What apparatus might be located at a new North Acton FEMS station?

A: The Fire Chief's professional judgment is that a new North Acton station should be built so as to accommodate a second ambulance, the existing ladder truck (which now only fits into the South station), a pumper, shift commander's vehicle, a boat, brush truck, HazMat trailer, and Fire Alarm maintenance vehicle.

Q 7: I understand that the site for a new Fire/EMT station being considered is at the intersection of Route 2A (Great Road) and Route 27(Main Street). That is a busy intersection; how would emergency apparatus be able to exit a nearby station site and get through the intersection?

A: There is presently a preemption device installed in the 2A/27 traffic lights which would be operated by the station/apparatus to stop traffic in the intersection. Additional traffic controls would be installed and sequenced to clear the road section immediately in front of the station of vehicles when an alarm is received. A simpler example of such traffic control can be seen at the existing West Concord Fire Station.

Q 8: If the site used is the one the Town bought for Fire/Emergency Medical Service use near 2A/27, would that impinge on the baseball field presently adjacent to the site?

A: No. Even though the outfields of the two ball diamonds are presently close to the lot purchased as a potential emergency station site, the anticipated design is still feasible and it is anticipated that the station installation will not degrade Veterans Field.

Q 9: Won't the parking that has occurred along the Town owned lot's Route 27 frontage when there is a baseball game interfere with emergency response from that location?

A: It is true that the illegal parking which has been previously tolerated on the grass shoulder along Route 27 at game times might interfere, and for that reason physical changes and enforcement activities will be necessary to prohibit such parking, and we will be attempting to provide additional parking spaces, working in conjunction with the Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball organization which uses the fields.

Q 10: Will emergency responses use the presently-existing driveway on the Veterans Field level?

A: No. The new station design will have the emergency vehicle bays at the level of Route 27 for direct entry into that street, the building's lower story being cut into the existing slope. Although there might possibly be a vehicular entry built into the lower level of the station accessible from the Veterans Field, any such will not be used for emergency response.



Fire / Emergency Medical Service Advisory Task Group

"To study feasibility and report to Board of Selectmen on pending proposal for new Fire/EMS Station in North Acton."



E-Mail: FEATG@Acton-MA.gov

Task Force E-mail Distribution Groups

| | |
|---|---|
| Fire/EMS Advisory Task Group | FEATG@Acton-ma.gov |
| Steering Committee | FEASC@Acton-ma.gov |
| Site Location Task Force | FEASite@Acton-ma.gov |
| Public Information Task Force | FEAInfo@Acton-ma.gov |
| Architect Selection Task Force | FEAArch@Acton-ma.gov |
| Communications and Technology Task Force | FEAComm@Acton-ma.gov |
| Apparatus Review Task Force | FEAApp@Acton-ma.gov |
| Financial Task Force | FEAFinance@Acton-ma.gov |

Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball
P.O. Box 2784
Acton, MA 01720-6784
tel. 978-263-8565
web: www.abyb.org
e-mail: webmaster@abyb.org



Board of Directors

Officers

Steve Mielke
President

Mike Coppolino
Vice President

Ed Bowler
Secretary

Bill Wiggins
Treasurer

Board Members

Mary Amato
Ken Bloom
Andrew Cranin
Mike Ewing
Brett Gotthelf
Jim Hurley
Sanjay Khosla
Bill Manning
Elise Marshall
Wayne McDonald
John Pacheco
Randy Steines

4/2/2007

Acton Board of Selectmen
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball (ABYB) was recently contacted by a member of the Steering Committee of the Fire/EMS Advisory Task Group (FEATG) and briefed on the plans being considered to potentially construct a new Fire/EMS Station near the intersection of routes 2A/27. This potential facility would be adjacent to the current Veterans Field Recreation complex, consisting of two little league baseball fields and a playground.

ABYB was pleased to learn from the representative of FEATG that should the 2A/27 site be chosen for the new Fire/EMS station, all practical efforts would be made to avoid any disruption to the use of the Veterans Field little league baseball fields. In the unlikely event of disruption of play at Veterans Field, the Town of Acton committed to accelerate the building of new baseball diamonds at School Street so the number of available baseball fields would not decrease.

ABYB also believes the new Fire/EMS station project could be quite beneficial to the Veterans Field Recreation complex with the addition of such amenities as public restrooms, additional parking and terraced landscape seating. To the extent reasonably practical, ABYB looks forward to the possibility that these and other amenities might be added to the project by the Town of Acton.

Respectfully,

Steve Mielke
President

Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball is the umbrella organization for the Acton-Boxborough Little League, serving youths through age 12, and the Acton-Boxborough Babe Ruth League, serving those aged 13-15.

Cc: Mike Coppolino, Sanjay Khosla, Randy Steines