DEPT./BOARD: Sculpture Park Subcommittee of Planning Board

DATE: Tuesday, January 7, 2019

TIME: 7:30am to 9am

PLACE: Burlington High School, Principal’s Conference Room

Agenda:

- Discuss issues regarding location of sculpture park in planned area between Police Headquarters and Grandview Farm
- Discuss alternative locations

Submitted by Jon Sachs, Chair
DEPT./BOARD: Sculpture Park Committee

DATE: January 7, 2020

TIME: 7:30am

PLACE: Burlington High School, Principal’s Conference Room

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Ratkevich, High School
Bob Buckley, Business Community
Jonathan Sachs, Chair, Town Meeting
Barbara L’Heureux, Planning Board
Nick Priest, Selectmen
Michael Wick, Library
Kevin Sheehan, Rec Dept

Peter Coppola, Historical Commission
Michael Tredeau, Historical Commission
Christopher Flaherty, BCAT

Minutes:

We discussed the issue of where to locate the first phase of the sculpture park, having heard concerns from the Historical Commission members about whether our planned location is either appropriate or allowable under the terms of the land swap that resulted in this particular piece of open land, between Police and Grandview.

Each member and both Historical Commission members expressed their views. Members of the sculpture committee would all like to see us continue with the planned location, at least for now, since the Call for Entries is in process. Members of the Historical Commission were both in opposition, feeling that that area should be used for display of Burlington historical artifacts, if anything is allowed.

The discussion continued around the concept that both historical artifacts and artworks could and should both be represented in the town center area, but there are legal and policy issues to be dealt with. One concern from the Historical Commission is that once the sculptures were to be placed on the small field, that that will become the standard and their hopes to use that field for historical purposes will be lost.
The idea was floated that the field in question might hold both artwork and historical items, and hence a double attraction for area families.

It is not clear whether sculptures would be legally allowed in the area, though some interpretations of the documents suggest not. It is quite clear that no structure to house historical items can be built there without changes to town by laws, not even an open shed.

The sculpture committee did not want to put the sculpture project on hold until a warrant might be brought to town meeting to alter the bylaw for that field.

It was decided that the Historical Commission should have a permanent member on the Sculpture Committee and Barbara L’Heureux said that that will be acted upon at the next Planning Board meeting.

It was suggested that the Sculpture Committee and Historical Commission should work together going forward to create a higher level of cultural visibility in town center, consisting of both historical items, signage, and works of art.

It was NOT decided where any of the sculptures might be located. The possible locations include:

• the small field, in contention, between Police and Grandview
• in front of town buildings on Center Street
• in specific areas of the Town Common
• in Simonds Park, either on the grassy slope facing Cambridge Street or between the trees and the street

It was agreed that Nick Priest will bring up the issues and concerns of the Historical Commission at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen, which will happen prior to a later meeting where the Sculpture Committee presents the work and asks for permission on works and location.

It was agreed that when the Sculpture Committee brings its selection of works to the Board of Selectmen for approval – that the location will be determined at that time, along with the Board’s approval, if given, of the choice of sculptures.

Next meeting is still set for Tuesday, January 21st, 2020, at 7:30am at the Burlington High School, Principals Conference Room.

Jon Sachs,
Chairman