

**SYMMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 1, 2001**

Andrew	DeCoursey*	Randolph	
Bailey	Fisher Privitera	Reedy*	
Carey*	Foskett*	Rehrig*	
Carr-Jones*	Hurd	Walkinshaw*	

* Indicates Present

Participants: John Maher, Town Counsel; Alan McClennen, Director of Planning and Community Development

Charles Foskett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion, the Committee approved the minutes of October 18, 2001.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE: Mr. Maher announced that the Town presented Lahey with a written offer last Thursday covering all matters in dispute between the parties. The Town has been promised a written reply from Lahey. It is also expected that there will be a face to face meeting following receipt of Lahey's written reply.

Mr. Maher observed that if a purchase and sale is to occur by December 31, 2001, it will be necessary to reach an agreement in principle within the next 7 to 10 days. If negotiations move forward, the earliest date that the Special Town Meeting could reconvene is November 26, 2001.

MEETING WITH INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT: Mr. Foskett and Mr. Rehrig reported that they had met with Catherine Donaher, an independent consultant/planner to gain a better understanding as to the scope of professional services that may be required should the Town acquire the Symmes Property. The Committee discussed the merits of developing a request for proposal (RFP) for a Reuse Planning and Feasibility Study for the Symmes Site. Mr. Foskett requested that Mr. McClennen assist Committee members in developing a draft RFP.

TIMETABLE FOR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee discussed the timing for the analysis, discussion and vote (affirmative or negative) of a proposed sale of the Symmes Property in the event the Town's negotiators and Lahey's representatives reach an agreement in principle within the next few weeks. To allow the Financial Analysis Working Group additional time to begin its analysis, Mr. Maher offered to provide members of the FAWG with copies of the Logue Appraisal Report if the members would agree to sign a confidentiality agreement. Mr. Maher stated that if the negotiating teams reach an agreement in principle, the Logue Report would become a public document.

Mr. Foskett asked the Committee if there were any objections to Mr. Maher's offer. Hearing none, the FAWG members present at the meeting were provided copies of the Logue Report. Members of the FAWG requested that they be kept informed of the status of negotiations so that they could plan their work accordingly.

OUTREACH: Mr. Rehrig reported that at an earlier meeting of the Public Use Working Group, members had discussed ways to reach-out to the community. When Mr. Rehrig went back to the PUWG more recently to let them know that there was a plan for an open-ended

questionnaire, however, members expressed concern that an open-ended format could lead to unrealistic expectations.

As part of the discussion, members of the Outreach Working Group (Dr. Carey, Mr. Walkinshaw, Lynne Lowenstein and Cindy Friedman) distributed a draft questionnaire. The Committee discussed the contents of the draft questionnaire and how a final version would be distributed to constituent groups and reported at Town Meeting.

WEB SITE: Mr. Rehrig and Ms. Carr-Jones announced that the Symmes Advisory Group website was up and running. The address is www.//groups.yahoo.com/group/SymmesAdvisoryCommittee
The site contains all posted minutes of the Committee, important documents and general information concerning the Committee.

WHITE PAPER: Mr. Reedy distributed an updated draft of the White Paper and requested members to review the draft and get back to him with comments within the next week.

RESIGNATION: Mr. Foskett announced that Alex Moschella, designee of the Council on Aging, Assisted Living Task Force and Arlington Senior's Association, had resigned from the Committee. Dr. Carey agreed to replace Mr. Moschella as Chair of the Medical Use Working Group.

ITEMS TO BE PRESENTED AT TOWN MEETING: The Committee briefly discussed the materials that would be distributed at Town Meeting. At present, these include the White Paper, the Committee's financial analysis, a draft RFP, the OWG survey and the Committee's recommendation.

LETTER FROM JACQUELINE HARRINGTON: Included in the Committee' handout was a copy of a letter that Jacqueline Harrington sent to Mr. Foskett. Therein, Mrs. Harrington requested that Mr. Foskett redo the spreadsheets presented by the Symmes 21 Committee in light of new information received from the Town's engineering consultants, TWB Associates, concerning the projected costs of renovating the Symmes Hospital and Nurse's Buildings. A discussion followed regarding the relevance of the Symmes 21 Analysis given that more current information is now available to the Committee regarding the property's value and overall market conditions.

On Motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.