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Acting Chief Robert Crosby
Co-Chairman
Terrie Schwartz
Co-Chairman

Roseann DeSimone
Jory Higgins
John Logan
Deborah MacFadden
John Murphy
Ken Post
Dr. Kevin Smith
John Suchy

Wilton Security Task Force

WILTON SECURITY TASK FORCE MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Acting Chief Robert Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Terrie Schwartz, Roseann DeSimone, John Logan, John Murphy, Jack Suchy, Ken Post, Jory Higgins, Dr. Kevin Smith, Deborah McFadden, Gary Battaglia and Reporter Tom Evans (The Villager/The Hour)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting was made by John Logan and seconded by Roseann DeSimone.

John Logan reported that only one school had turned in the completed mass communication survey at the recent District Emergency Team meeting. Results of all surveys will be compiled, analyzed and a spread sheet will be prepared and presented for discussion at the next WSTF meeting. The ability to communicate in the dead zone areas was discussed.

When crisis plans have been developed at the schools, it was recommended that a representative from each school intersect with the WSTF at a monthly meeting. All hazard plans are needed with different protocols for each school. The plans need to be created and trained. Drills and surprise drills were discussed.

Dr. Smith advised that three interviews for the open position will be conducted within the next two to three weeks while the search continues. John Logan will be representing the WSTF on the interview panel. A suggestion was made by John Logan to look into "Linkedin" for possible candidates. There was a discussion on adhering to the original intent of the position as it was pitched to acquire funding.

A sturdier, firmer protective product is being looked into for installation at the Miller Driscoll School. John Murphy will report back at the next meeting.

Door hardware acquisition is being discussed and hashed out with the architects. Once the standard is set at Miller Driscoll, the other schools will be looked at.

Reactions to the new kiosk at the high school entrance were discussed. Initially the change was received as an inconvenience by some students. They are adjusting and continue to be educated about the bigger picture. Parents have expressed appreciation for the added security. Moving large groups of students from one location to another on campus was discussed. Terrie Schwartz suggested there be a positive follow-up message in the newspapers.

Pricing on the cement planters will vary dependent upon size requirements and the number of planters needed. They could range anywhere from $500 - $1400 each. Maintenance of the planters is also a consideration. From farm to table was suggested to address the maintenance of the planters. Specs will need to go before the bond council. Landscaping versus security may be an issue. Security vulnerability is a concern.

There was a discussion on the possibility of obtaining outside funding sources from private individuals, organizations and corporations by identifying legitimate needs and viable expenses that are not bonded. Deborah McFadden will reach out to Sandy Dennies (CFO).

Acting Chief Crosby will email the phone system RFP to the WSTF members.

The size of the numbers to be placed on the exterior windows at the school buildings was discussed. The architect is requesting this information.

Deborah McFadden suggested the WSTF recommend a third party who has expertise in organizing emergency plans and knowledge of all state and federal guidelines do an assessment on past and current crisis plans. It was suggested that Deborah make this recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as it is beyond the scope of the WSTF mission. Deborah asked to meet with Chief Crosby and Dr. Smith to see where this might fit with current plans.

There was a discussion on announced and unannounced training practices and the benefit of simultaneous training with the Police and Fire Departments. There are potential issues when different groups train at different times and then come together to implement plans. The point where the Board of Education steps down and the Police and Fire Departments take over needs to be identified.

The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in meeting room "B" at Town Hall.

At 7:40 p.m., Roseann DeSimone made a motion, which was seconded by Deborah McFadden, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

C Furano

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary