

Dexter Fire Detection Committee
Thursday, March 18, 2010 @ 4:45 pm

Meeting Minutes
Dexter Library Meeting Room

Attendees: J. Smith, D. Fisher, S. Keough, D. Schnettler, G. Vander Hagen, A. Bishop, Don Dettling

Introductions –

New Business

Discussed goal of the committee and determined that initial charge would be “fire detection and notification” .

Committee desire to determine way to protect downtown historically significant properties through detection measures and education of building owners.

Options – Ordinance that requires vs. Education and Voluntary approach

DDA authority to mandate fire protection/detection? G. Vander Haagen to check into State of Michigan DDA legislation.

- Committee to come up with ideas for detection to guide property owners
- Identify types of detection/prevention systems and investment (cost)
- Identify available options and or opportunities for multiple users/coordination – Alarm companies available and what they offer and monthly fees/commitments required – D. Dettling to contact companies
- Identify funding sources - Can DDA offer financial assistance / other groups / Village / grants / loans to be paid back over time / Dexter Fire Dept or Fire Association / other?
- Identify costs – knox boxes, alarm systems, dialup monitoring, inspection fees with County Building
- D. Dettling to contact D. Armstrong for information on potential grant availability for detection.
- Discussed interaction with property owners - How do we convince property owners of the importance of detection - Dexter’s has had 3 fires downtown and Lake Orion and other small communities with historic downtowns have had devastating downtown fires.
- How do we get the word out to property owners for participation and education
- Impact on insurance rates – may provide cost savings to insurance rates over time. Need to determine.
- Consider hosting a public meeting with property owners once goals, objectives and information has been gathered

- Send out letter to property owners informing them of the committee and the meetings to encourage additional participation and buy in. D Dettling to draft for circulation among committee. Letter should explain heightened awareness of potential devastating impacts of fire on a historic downtown, the character, shared walls, etc. Letter should invite property owners to a meeting. Need to determine when, what, where, may need more information to present prior to next meeting.
- Consider a survey to gauge level of interest / support / understanding
- Compile list of property owners and contact info for future letter.
- Map needed for area under consideration

Committee will develop a plan to present the options to Council and DDA.

Next meeting – April 22 at 4:45 pm at the Dexter Library meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison Bishop