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**Town of Amherst**  
**Spring Town Meeting 2017**

DPW Fire Station Advisory Committee

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Committee Report to Town Meeting

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## **DPW Fire Station Advisory Committee**

*The committee is charged with the responsibility of providing advice to the Town Manager, and through the Town Manager to the Select Board, JCPC, and Town Meeting on the options and preferred alternatives for construction of for a DPW facility and an Amherst South Fire Station.*

- 7 members
  - met 20 times since May 1, 2016
  - Fall 2016 Town Meeting
    - Warrant for DPW Schematic Design – Failed
    - Warrant for Fire/EMS Station Feasibility Study – Passed
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# Why does the Town need a new Public Works facility?

- Existing facility was originally built as a trolley barn around 1915 with few significant improvements or modernizations
- Facility has not kept pace with DPW's increased responsibilities, staff, vehicles and pieces of equipment
- Not code and safety compliant
- Inadequate indoor vehicle storage & maintenance
- Safety concerns for staff
- Public Works operations and storage are scattered throughout the community impacting the efficiency and costs



# Why does the Town need a new Fire/EMS facility?

## Central Fire Station – built in 1929

- Fire vehicles were smaller
- About 150 calls a year

## North Fire Station – built in 1975

- Annual fire and EMS calls about 2,000

## Previous studies (1966, 1983 and 2006)

- All previous feasibility studies recommended replacing the Central Station with a new one located south of the downtown

## Today

- Fire Department handles close to 6,500 fire and EMS calls a year
- Facility is inadequate and has deplorable working conditions for staff
- Fire trucks and ambulances barely fit through Central Fire Station's doors



# Update – DPW Facility

## **MAJOR STEPS COMPLETED**

- March 2015 - Consultant selected
- March 2016 - Feasibility Study completed

## **NEXT STEPS**

- **Summer & Fall 2017 - A Final Site will be Selected**
  - **Summer & Fall 2017 - Public outreach and education**
  - **Fall 2017 - TM Article for Schematic Design funds**
  - **2017/2018 - With TM approval, perform Schematic Design**
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# Update – Fire Station

## MAJOR STEPS COMPLETED

- September 2016 - Consultant selected
- Fall TM 2016 - Feasibility Study funds approved by TM

## NEXT STEPS

- **Summer 2017 - Staffing Study Completed**
  - **Summer 2017 - Feasibility Study Completed**
  - **Summer & Fall 2017 - A Final Site will be Selected**
  - **Summer & Fall 2017 - Public outreach and education**
  - **Fall 2017 - TM Article for Schematic Design funds**
  - **2017/2018 – With TM approval, perform Schematic Design**
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# Get Involved

- Please attend any of our Committee meetings

*Next one scheduled for May 11, 4:30 Town Hall*

- Public outreach and information meetings coming this Summer and Fall
- More info available at:

<https://www.amherstma.gov/1505/DPW-Fire-Station-Advisory-Committee>

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