

**Governor Malloy's Southbury Training School Task Force met in Moser Library at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Thursday, August 29, 2013.**

Attendees: Terry Macy, DDS Commissioner (Co-Chair)  
Ben Barnes, OPM Secretary (Co-Chair)  
Ed Edelson, Southbury First Selectman  
Joseph Dippel, Bureau Director, Agriculture Development & Resource Preservation Division (Representative for Steve Revicky, DoAg Commissioner)  
Binu Chandy, DECD Civil Engineer (Representative for Catherine Smith, DECD Commissioner)  
Eugene Harvey, STS Director  
Hugh Sullivan, Registered Architect, Town of Southbury  
Leslie Kane, Business Representative, Town of Southbury  
Diana Mennone, STS Guardian  
Gian Carl Casa, OPM Guest  
Christine M. Pollio Cooney, DDS Guest

Commissioner Macy opened the meeting by welcoming the committee members and distributing packets which included the following information: Agenda, List of Committee Members, Summary Information and Brief History of STS, STS Utilities Assessment, STS Capacity and Population Report as of August 29, 2013, STS Land Parcels with Acreage, DDS testimony on H.B. 6542 An Act Concerning the Preservation of Farmland at the Southbury Training School, and a map of the STS campus highlighting the buildings that are currently closed.

Secretary Barnes began by stating that the task force was created by Governor Malloy's executive action to develop a comprehensive plan for the future use of Southbury Training School (STS) campus and how to maintain the buildings and grounds as it continues to be home to residents. Recommendations are expected from this committee to be presented to the Governor by January 30, 2014.

First Selectman, Ed Edelson, discussed STS as an integral part of Southbury with the recent Farmland Preservation legislation as a first step in the future use of this property. The property is a significant asset in many respects and developing a comprehensive plan is a win-win for both the state and the Town of Southbury.

The Commissioner reviewed the contents of the packets with the committee.

Eugene Harvey gave an overview of the campus, which originally had forty buildings that were homes to our residents. Now there are only twenty buildings in which they reside. The section called Personnel Village has twenty small buildings, which were originally used for employee housing for twenty years. Today there are only five buildings which are homes to STS residents. This area is scheduled to close soon as the buildings are not appropriate for our aging population. Recently, legislation was passed that allows forty-five acres of land in this area to be transferred to the Town of Southbury for subsidized housing for the elderly once it is no longer needed by DDS for residents and if certain conditions are met. The main campus is also downsizing to an area where the steam pipes used for heating are in the best condition for future use. Cottage 30 and Cottage 31 are scheduled to close this winter and spring respectively. Having accessible first floor accommodations are a major concern for future use of the remaining buildings. Once a building is closed, all flammables are removed, utilities are shut off and the building is lock and secured. STS

staff continues to work with guardians to provide extensive information regarding community placement opportunities.

Sec. Barnes commented that the movement away from institutional settings and toward community home settings is not unique to DDS. Nursing homes along with other state facilities with large buildings that house large populations are no longer viable for residential care.

Ed Edelson questioned if the state can reuse or repurpose part of STS that has closed, and/or demolish the buildings that have been closed for some time and are determined to be unsafe.

Joseph Dippel announced the Farmland Preservation and Advisory Board has scheduled a board meeting in September to review the farmland structures on the property and commission an A-2 Survey of the farmland property. The current lease with the farmer, Mr. Platt, will continue.

Ed Edelson questioned as STS downsizes, will the STS ambulance service and fire department relocate to the community? Eugene commented that if the fire department is to continue for the long term, it will need to return to its volunteer roots.

Sec. Barnes discussed consultants. Limited funds will be available to hire outside consultants, who will identify with STS staff, a comprehensive inventory of the facility, and then present a plan to work through this process. It was suggested to invite the former First Selectman from Newtown to give insight into the process he experienced with the Fairfield Hills property.

Ed Edelson suggested Milone & MacBroom, a planning and engineering consultant they are considering hiring to evaluate the property for their future elderly housing project, to also evaluate the STS properties. The committee agreed to consider Milone & MacBroom for the evaluation of the wider STS campus. Mr. Edelson and Sec. Barnes will discuss and identify the scope of work needed by the consultant including property inventory and assessment, coordination of public input and organization of the taskforce recommendations into a final product for the Governor. The State will take care of any contamination if it exists.

Future Meeting Dates:

September Meeting – Invite consultants and give assignments.

October Meeting – Prepare for the Public Hearing to be scheduled in November.

The next meeting of the STS Task Force will be **Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the STS Moser Library.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pam Webb*

Pam Webb, Administrative Assistant  
Director's Office  
Southbury Training School