



## Town of Camden

### Press Release

August 26, 2014

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Select Board Chair Martin Cates announced that North East Mobile Health Services has contacted the Town to inform the Select Board that it does not wish to proceed with a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire 116 Washington Street (the Apollo Tannery site).

“North East Mobile Health Services has notified the Select Board that they have been presented with a possible alternate site to locate its operations that it wishes to consider,” Cates said. North East has not disclosed the location of the site, but Cates noted, “The fact that the site under consideration has a building certainly makes it more attractive from both a cost and timing perspective.”

“We wish them the best as they seek a suitable site to meet its operational needs and continue to serve our four communities,” Cates said.

The Purchase and Sale Agreement was to be considered at tonight’s Select Board meeting. “Due to this decision by North East not to proceed with negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Tannery site, the sale of the tannery site to North East Mobile Health is moot, it is no longer active, and items pertaining to the sale of the Tannery site have been removed from the agenda,” Cates said.

The Select Board Chair said this is an opportunity for the community to consider its future. “Given the recent discussions about the Tannery site and differing views on how it should be used, I think it is time once again for the Select Board to ask all Camden residents to voice their opinion on what they think is the best use of the Tannery site for the entire community,” Cates said.

The so-called Tannery site is where the Apollo Tannery was located. The tannery closed in 1999 and it was tax acquired by the Town in 2003. Considered a Brownfield, the Town cleaned the site with the assistance of an environmental clean-up grant. Since 2008, citizens have voted at the Annual Town Meetings to designate the site to be used for certain types of commercial development as described in the Tannery Re-development Workgroup Report in 2008.

“Now that there is no active proposal to purchase the Tannery site, it’s time for the entire community to weigh in on how we as a community want this public-owned parcel of land to be used,” Cates said. Do residents still want the site used for commercial uses to create jobs and stimulate economic activity, or do we as a community want it to be a public park?

I will be asking the Select Board to support putting these questions to the voters this November in a straw poll so we as a community and the Select Board can take a pulse on what direction the entire community wants Camden to go,” Cates said.

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