



Somersworth Fire Station

195 MAPLE STREET, SOMERSWORTH, NH

2018

The City of Somersworth (City) had an aging fire station in need of replacement. The City reviewed numerous alternate sites for development of a new fire station in other parts of the City, however the existing site was considered geographically ideal considering its central location within the City.

2019

The City hired S. W. Cole Engineering, Inc. in 2019 to provide preliminary geotechnical engineering and subsurface explorations to aid in site planning. S.W.COLE recommended removal of the granular fill and buried organics below the building foundations. S.W.COLE made an assessment that the excavated existing fills could be re-used on site as compacted fill, reducing the amount of off-site soil disposal required.

2021

S.W.COLE was retained again in 2021 to provide construction observations and materials testing services. S.W.COLE provided field engineering and earthwork observations during construction, working with Harvey Construction on the removal and re-use of the uncontrolled granular fills found at the site.

SIZE CONSTRAINTS

The fire station site presented size constraints for construction of an adequately sized modern fire station. The site is abutted by properties containing a capped and closed former municipal landfill and by a right-of-way easement, which were both owned by the City. S.W.COLE performed test boring explorations and reviewed various record drawings, and determined that the site could be extended into the right-of-way to the south, but not into the landfill property.



Photo by -Six03- Aerial Photography

CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES

The City's primary goal during redevelopment of a new fire station was keeping the existing fire station operational during construction. Port One Architects worked closely with the City and the project team to develop a phasing plan to allow the existing fire station to remain operational during the construction. Two structurally independent buildings were constructed at separate times, and then adjoined to create the new complete fire station. The design and construction team and fire department personnel worked together to successfully allow the fire department to remain on their desired site, both during construction on a congested site, and for the long-term to service the public safety needs of the City of Somersworth.



Photo courtesy of Harvey Construction



Photo courtesy of Harvey Construction

Architect - Port One Architects
Construction Manager - Harvey Construction
Structural Engineer - JSN Associates

