

Senior Center Building Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

In Attendance: John Matthews, Bobbi Grant, Duane Mosier, Mike Fedora, Cliff Bombard, Carol Keeney, Don Collins, Becky Moriarty, John Flynn via ZOOM

Excused: Gary Weiner, Rita Vail

Guest: Rockwell Keeney

Duane called the meeting to order at 11:03AM

Minutes from 12/12/22. John Matthews motion to approve. Carol Keeney seconded. All in favor.

Discussion of Priorities and Needs

- Storage (indoor vs outdoor; what are the priorities?)
 - o More discussion about what kind of storage would be necessary and if any of that can be offsite storage and what is secure storage
 - o Director to provide a more detailed list of priority storage needs
- Privacy Concerns
 - o With regards to yoga class for example. This class is supposed to be a relaxing class, but because of where the class is held, there is a lot of background noise from the kitchen and other programs. Would be nice to have a more private space.
 - o Rooms on the feasibility study design are designated for personal needs and for the availability for confidential meetings. (no more footcare in the janitors closet)
- Comment: does the general population know what goes on in the senior center. Confidential information is worked on in the senior center. The center does not just play games, but rather there are things happening behind the scenes that people are probably not aware of.
- More publicity needed to tell the community what is happening here. Items are advertised in the paper and in the newsletter.
- The name of the building: Community Center vs. Senior Center I.e., Longmeadow Adult Center is used by the public and not just the older adult population

The feasibility study design that we have current is a concept and could change if and when we move forward with the building project.

Questions for the architect/design team that will be addressed at the 2/13 meeting with the architect/design team that completed the feasibility study.

- Sprinkler system, larger building, qualifications for ADA accessibility, utilities, why certain areas were designed in certain ways, set back line

What can we do without?

- Financial constraints on the building in other areas. Will that limit the design? Some discussion about the design that was presented in the feasibility study.
- What is the vision of the senior center going forward.

Comment: Costs are difficult to look at currently. A cost of 3 million + is very high for this town for a project of this nature.

Current study being done on the town house. There have been statements made that the town could be looking to rehome the library and would there be space in the senior center addition or on this property to also build a wing for the library.

Discussion of the town budget and finances. The town has been in very good financial shape for years, but will that start to level out? Discussion of affordability for the town and potential for grant funding for this project. There are other large town projects/demands that are taking shape in the coming years for the town. (Town Hall, Fire Department)

Other towns that have built senior centers in surrounding towns are all three times the size of Hampden. Looking around in other communities you are seeing flatlining and diminishing numbers of people and population numbers. Concern about building something too big.

Could some services be shared by Hampden and another community? Could some services be done at another town building?

How can we grow the number of people that are using the building? Only 30% of the older adult population are using the building. Discussed the idea of a needs assessment to be distributed around town, online, and on town website to find out what residents are looking for and what they would like to see at the senior center now and in years to come.

Statement regarding sidewalks and walkability of the town and infrastructure getting people to and from this building.

Current building is 22 years old. Updates to the current building?

Scheduling varies at the senior center throughout the week and there are times when classes are cancelled to accommodate programs.

Annual maintenance costs of building an addition could increase the budget by \$40-\$50k per year.

Do we look at hours of operations? Extended hours were attempted in the past without much success.

Comment: proposed 4,000 sq ft is too big for an addition.

Should staff input be involved as to priorities – yes. Director will talk with staff.

Needs Assessment townwide to be done in multiple medias (paper and online) to discover needs and a promotional campaign for the project

Utilization of each room – what are they used for and when?

Program requirements and needs going forward

Goals:

- Each committee member should categorize priorities in addition to staff members providing feedback (either in person or on paper)

No Don at the next meeting

Motion to adjourn at 12:20PM

Respectfully Submitted for the Secretary: Rebecca C. Moriarty, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)