

Senior Center Building Committee Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2023

In Attendance: Bobbi Grant, Duane Mosier, Mike Fedora, Rita Vail, Gary Weiner, Carol Keeney, John Flynn, Don Collins, Cliff Bombard, Becky Moriarty
Guests: Chip Keeney

Duane called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

Minutes from 2/27/23. Gary Weiner motion to approve with correction. Rita Vail seconded. Add to sprinkler section that we may not be in favor of it, but we may not have a choice in the matter if we go over 7500 square feet. All in favor of minutes being approved.

Duane provided handout of letter he sent to the Board of Selectmen regarding the relocation of the Hampden Library.

Review of RFQ from the Town of Hampden Fire Department and example from the Town of Wilbraham. Discussion as to whether the committee should go on record through a vote indicating that we recognize the need for an expansion, or not, which allows moving into the RFQ? Is the committee responsible for the RFQ or is that the town admin responsibility?

Gary handed out a marked up copy of the first page of Wilbraham senior center RFQ dated August 20, 2014, document for our review.

Question: Is there a sense for the warrant article dollar amount? The architect fees would be around 10% of the total building project.

Phase 1 schematic design work (\$75,000 - \$90,000?)

Phase 2 final design, bid documents, plans, etc. (number undefined until we know what the square footage will be)

Member Opinion: Fall town meeting would be the earliest that the Phase 1 question could be on the warrant. There is no need to rush the project or minimize citizen input.

Comment: The committee doesn't have a sense as to where the community stands and how the building could be used differently. Referenced the current fire department study committee and how the meetings within town for that project have been handled and how the community was asked to be involved and share comments and opinions.

Fire Department presentations provided options at recent public hearings and that would be helpful for the senior center moving forward. This committee needs options to look at as far as moving forward.

Taking a vote on the issue would lead the group into the Needs Assessment study to go out to the community.

Does the community know that the senior center space issue is a need? The committee needs to bring it forward to the town and give the town the choice.

Suggestion: Keep article on the warrant for the spring town meeting as an explanatory warrant article and to let the town know that it will appear on the fall special town meeting warrant. Townspeople will

hear an explanation from the committee with the current timeline and project details. No money asks at the spring meeting.

The charge of the committee from the Board of Selectmen was to determine if renovations and/or an expansion was a possibility for the senior center.

Board Member Comment: long term growth in the town isn't there. 30% of the eligible senior population is utilizing the facility, which is low. The building is ready for some attention. Concerns about the Wilbraham Senior Center opening and potential for diminished utilization of Hampden and less need for programs and services. Concern that the building will be over built. No question that the current staff is doing a good job.

Motion: Don Collins: After review of feasibility study and review of future needs of the senior center that we proceed into the second phase of the Scope of Services for a more detailed analysis of the wants and needs of the senior center. Rita Vail: seconded. Rita, Mike, Gary, Cliff, Don, Carol, Bobbi voted in favor. Duane opposed.

How do we move forward from this point? There is renovation that needs to be done and there are square footage issues that need to be addressed. The committee needs professional input in order to move forward. The BOS need to be informed of the vote that was taken at this meeting. To move forward, professional assistance is necessary.

Next step: request through the chair, for direction from the Board of Selectmen in moving forward to obtain professional services.

Committee to review the needs of the building and prioritize the list.

Comment: Page 4 of the edm study provides a list of the needs of the building.

Reviewed Needs Assessment document:

- Emphasis on caregiving on the survey.

- PVPC survey re: age and dementia friendly.

- Discussion of postage: could we do a direct mailing as opposed to an insert?

- Shortened survey: Age, do you use the center, any programs not available, what would you like to see offered at the senior center.

- Review surveys from other senior centers.

Are there any ARPA funds that could be helpful in providing community outreach meetings for the senior center project?

Motion: Cliff made a motion. Gary seconded for the purpose of discussion. Request an architect for a look at the needs and how much renovation accommodates the needs and how much expansion would accommodate the need or a combination thereof. Friendly amendment: Made by Gary Weiner to ask edm for the specific purpose of providing a presentation to the town. Seconded by Rita Vail.

Amendment to the motion was voted and All in favor. Original motion moved to vote. Motion passed. One abstention.

Discussion: the motion appears that we are looking to move forward with an RFQ, but this motion is for public input purposes only. Public input needs to precede the RFQ.

Ask the selectmen for funding for public participation? \$5,000 was approved to use for the look at the wetlands and not used, can that be reallocated to use for a public participation meeting? Can the money be used to facilitate the meeting?

Becky will ask edm if they are willing/able to come for public comment presentation.

Meeting adjourned: 12:27. Motion Rita. Seconded Gary. All in favor.

Next Meeting March 27th

Next Meetings:

March 27th

April 10th (Advisory Hearing)

April 24th

May 8th (Town Meeting)

May 22nd

Motion adjourned at 12:17PM

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

ZOOM recording available at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/RrBcg51u_NtclQoMrKDt_EAoSQtGeH4zPLEIEp5aaqxUVmwXEXgZxqwlEtweesNC.T-PuC8ZBUziUYjlm

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