

Senior Center Building Committee Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023

In Attendance: Bobbi Grant, Rita Vail, Gary Weiner, Carol Keeney, Don Collins, Mike Fedora, Cliff Bombard, John Matthews, John Flynn (ex-officio), Becky Moriarty (ex-officio)

Guests: Mike Doran, Arne Arneson

Don Collins called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

Minutes from 10/23/23. Cliff motion to approve John Matthews seconded. All in favor.

Reorganization of the Committee

Don reminded the group that Duane Mosier resigned from the committee. John Matthews made a motion to move Don from Vice Chair to Chairman. Rita seconded. All in favor.

Don Collins made a motion for Gary Weiner to be the Vice Chair of the committee. Seconded by Carol Keeney. All in favor.

Carol Keeney asked if an additional member needs to be added to the committee due to numbers. John Flynn does not think there is a need currently to add an additional member. Gary expressed that we may need to look at the issue again around January when the project starts to move forward.

Gary recommended that the BOS Liaison move up to the table. Gary made a motion to allow the BOS Liaison to sit at the table. Cliff seconded the motions. John Flynn felt comfortable in his current seat location and commented that Becky Moriarty has as much knowledge as anyone and should be able to interject at meetings as needed. John Flynn explained that an ex-officio role is not meant to exclude anyone. Vote: 7 in favor. Rita opposed.

Gary Weiner stated that Don did an excellent job presenting at the Special Town Meeting.

Carol Keeney quoted from an article that was in the Hampden Wilbraham Times following the Special Town Meeting and asked if there has been any thought of changing from a senior center to another name because we accommodate all ages in town.

John Flynn asked if changing the name of the senior center would have repercussions about receiving future funding for anything. Becky would have to investigate that.

A meeting with the Board of Selectmen will take place tonight in the Town House Auditorium at 6:30PM. The Board of Selectmen called the committee in for an update prior to awarding the contract to an architectural firm.

Gary referenced the handouts that were given to the Board of Selectmen at the BOS meeting prior to the Special Town Meeting by Duane Mosier. Gary thought Duane's resignation letter was fine, but in a second letter presented regarding the committee's vote on architectural firms, Duane signed his name as the chair of the committee but included his own opinions and those were not the opinions of the entire committee. The committee didn't ask him to comment on the selection process. Gary feels that the meeting tonight with the BOS is to offer opinion on the architect that was chosen.

Gary felt Duane's actions were inappropriate. Gary thinks the letter provided by Duane spoke of flaws with the process. Gary is also concerned that the committee has lost at least 2 weeks in the process by the Board of Selectmen not awarding the contract to edm the day after the vote at the special town meeting.

Carol asked if any of the architects had been in touch. Becky stated that there was an email from edm. The email was congratulatory about the positive vote at the town meeting and asking for follow up. Becky will forward future emails to that email account to the chair, Don.

John Matthews is concerned about going forward and how the committee feels. The vote was very close when selecting edm. It is important that the BOS knows that a lot of information was sorted through during the entire process.

Rita asked in what order Duane submitted the documents at the Selectmen's meeting. John Flynn stated that the resignation letter was submitted first, then the rest. Becky corrected: the recommendation letter was first, then the resignation letter, then the packet.

John Flynn had never seen a letter of recommendation with a personal opinion attached and thinks the personal opinion should not have been included in that letter because at the time, Duane was still the chair of the committee.

Don looked back at the original charge from the BOS 25-50 years. Don doesn't think Duane's analysis took that into consideration.

Cliff asked if there should be a thank you letter from the committee thanking Duane for his service. The BOS is sending a letter.

Old Business

Don is questioning the document that lists the program spaces and needs of the building. Becky explained the Conference/Program Space and what it could be used for.

Gary: Assuming the BOS goes along with the recommendation of the committee, letters need to be sent out to the consultants ASAP. The next meeting of the Building Committee is 11/20 and that would be when we would invite the architect in for the kickoff meeting.

John Flynn explained the process and that the Town Administrator would send the letters following a vote by the Board of Selectmen.

Becky expressed concern with sending a letter and hoped the letters could also be emailed to the consultants.

Bobbi asked a question about the shape of the senior center library as noted on a handout.

Carol asked how long Mr. Markel will be in his current position. John Flynn explained that his contract expires at the end of the calendar year.

Bobbi asked about the police station's use of the sprinkler system and water usage. Bobbi asked if they are programmable. Bobbi asked about the removal of the sprinkler system and who would pay for that. John Flynn explained that if the water usage is over, the sprinklers will have to be terminated. Gary explained that DEP is aware of the overages, and it is a good thing that it has been brought to light now. Gary stated that the police department building committee voted to not allow a sprinkler system because of the well and capacity issues. The police department building committee worked very hard to get DEP to allow two buildings to be on one water supply. Gary stated there is a test well in the corner of the senior center parking lot that could be used to potentially move a sprinkler system to that well. Gary is not aware of the capacity of the test well.

John Flynn suggests that the other two Board of Selectmen members might be asking questions about the handouts that were provided by Duane Mosier. John Flynn does not want there to be any additional delays.

Gary Weiner asked about electric vehicle charging stations and that those will take up 4 parking spaces. Gary thinks the units could be problematic in the future. Gary suggests that they be put in the back by the septic. John Flynn spoke about the issue of the charging stations. There was a grant made available to the town for the installation of chargers in the parking lot near where the Hartsprings donation bin is located.

John Matthews said that gives credence to a senior center gift shop so people can shop while they charge.

The decision was made by the BOS office to move the project forward. The committee will bring this up at the BOS meeting tonight to discuss the location of the charging stations.

Don motion to adjourn. Cliff seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM

Next meeting:

BOS Meeting 11/6/23 at 6:30PM

November 20th at 11:00

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

ZOOM recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/O2O3VPAZ62tyi75WLIteV43LpFfhPbkQsn4RPGkxdo19uyFigUT3sx3Z5wlqTkRh.A5gVg0oUDFXTBavK>

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