

Meeting Notes

March 28, 2024

Dave called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

In attendance: Phil Cieply, Amy Wilson-Kent, Alejna Burgos, Tom Fichtner, David Kurczy, Mike Goddard, Peg Nogueira, , Mike Ammendolia , John Vandersluis and Lawney Tinio, Mark Bucchino and Jody Kurczy.

The committee unanimously approved the secretary's minutes from March 12 and then moved onto three other topics.

Communications Outreach

Phil and the Communications team have been busy with speaking engagements. The Senior Center held an open house in March and the local newspaper and ABMI were present. It will be broadcast on the ABMI channel. The final open house will be April 24 from 6:30 to 7:30. Other organizations that invited us to speak to their members were Parks and Rec, the Historical Commission, Brothers of the Brush, the Lions Club and Scout troop leaders.

Mike G suggested we contact the Library and "piggyback" on some of their programs. Peg will contact Andrew and get a copy of the program schedule and leave some packets there for people to take home. The Post Office was another suggested place to leave handouts.

John V also suggested small businesses and shops where townspeople frequent.

Mike A. mentioned the schools and getting the message to the parents. Perhaps a flyer could be sent home with the children.

Alejna suggested a postcard project utilizing the list of voters who attend town meetings. This suggestion was well received and work will begin immediately.

Mark B confirmed that the marquee in Founders Park will be utilized to inform the public about our next Open House at the Senior Center

Staffing and Cost Saving Measures

As it is budget request time, Amy and Peg attended the Fin Com and Selectboard meeting to ask for some additional hours for the Admin Asst to our proposed budget.

It was suggested that we meet with the schools about being part of a large group to get a better rate for repairs and propane. Also suggested was exploring the use of natural gas, which has a “line” nearby. Do an analysis of both propane and natural gas. The idea of solar panels is still on the table if we could get grants to pay for it.

Debt and Cost to Taxpayers

Jody K. brought a slideshow presentation. We are looking at a 30-year duration (at most) and what debt is “coming off the books”. She reminded the group that these figures were for illustration purposes and are based on FY24 estimates and the tax rate for ‘24. We need to have these figures to show at the town meeting. We need to focus on the impact to taxpayers. Because building costs go up about 5% each year, this is the time to build the center. The town needs to handle the new debt using flexibility and a strategy to pay it off. The message that we are managing a financially sound and future looking approach is the way to go.

John V. asked about the possibility of only a 20-year debt rather than 30. It is hoped that even if it turns out to be 30, the town still can try and pay it off quicker.

The committee thanked Jody for her excellent presentation!

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 9 at 6:30 at the Police Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Peg Nogueira

Acting Secretary