

Meeting Notes

January 30, 2024

Phil called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The committee unanimously approved the secretary's minutes from January 16, 2024.

In attendance were Mark Bucchino, Phil Cieply, Mike Ammendolia, Alejna Brugos, Dave Kurczy, Mike Goddard, Tom Fichtner, John Vandersluis, Amy Wilson-Kent, Diane Howell, Peg Nogueira, Karen Meade, Lawney Tinio and Dave DeMarche.

Invited guests were Mike Petrovick and John Ramsey from Petrovick Architects.

Phil informed the committee that D&L Design had gone to the selected site on North Ave and had begun some exploratory site work, which the locations have been documented. They are not able to do perk testing at this time.

The committee was given a power point presentation by Mike Petrovick and John Ramsey outlining the proposed structure and cost of the Senior Community Center. The estimated costs were done by PM&C out of Hopkinton MA based on market pricing. This cost estimate was based on our current options and our committee's input to the architect. All the members present received the DRAFT feasibility estimate and the proposed building design.

Due to the proposed cost of the building, there were discussions around possible changes to bring down some costs. A road leading past the proposed building entrance is costly but if the town wants to develop the remaining acres out back, it could be used for that expansion. The committee agreed that the road should end at the senior center as to save some of that cost. The town could later expand the road as needed. Use of items such as solar energy (not included in the basic price) and heat pumps would offset some of the operational costs, but what is the committee willing to sacrifice in order to have the voters approve this building?? We need to bring the tax cost to each of the townspeople. The committee asked Mike P. to re-run the numbers.

The voters will also need to know what the current building will be used for. From a capital standpoint, let the voters know that once the current senior center is vacated, it is town owned usable property. As it is in good condition, the town would be able to utilize it thus saving money to build a new building i.e., additional highway dep't space, Parks and Rec. etc.

The committee must show transparency when asked questions or giving presentations. Communication and Messaging will be important.

Key points to bring to the voters are:

Show how waiting to build brings an escalation of costs.

What are we going to do with all that space?

Programs we can bring to the community, not just seniors.

Show what other towns are currently paying for new buildings of similar size.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Feb 13 at 6:30pm at the Police Station.

Meeting adjourned.

Peg Nogueira

Acting Secretary