

Meeting Notes

April 9, 2024

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

In attendance: Phil Cieply, Alejna Burgos, Tom Fichtner, David Kurczy, Mike Goddard, Peg Nogueira, Tom Fichtner, Karen Slattery –Meade, John Vandersluis Lawney Tinio and Mark Bucchino .

A discussion was held regarding the Selectboard meeting and the finalizing of the the warrant. There had been Fin Com members present at the Selectboard's meeting. Phil would like to get their backing for the project prior to the Town Meeting.

It was suggested that the Committee limit the number of presenters on the Town Meeting floor. It will be necessary to have Mike Petrovick, the Architect, present to answer any specific questions relating to the project. Phil and Dave will represent the committee and possibly a 3rd member. Jody's presence would be beneficial. It is imperative that we get the final numbers representing the tax impact on the taxpayers. We definitely need it for the open house on April 24th.

We will also be getting out the message that we are a more active senior population and that expanded recreational opportunities will benefit all.

John V raised the issue of how much additional staffing the new center will need, if approved. Amy, Senior Center Director, had asked for some additional hours for her assistant, even if it meant splitting the position between two people, to save on the "benefits" package. We need to show that we are using resources efficiently.

At the last meeting, it was suggested that some of the committee meet with school personnel. Phil has sent a letter to Sean Nicholson but has not received a reply. Mike G will contact the school authorities about scheduling a meeting with the School Committee. Phil and Peg have met with the Library Director and will attend 2 meetings there.

At the Selectboard's budget meeting, Jay Byer and Dr. Maureen informed the board that Mendon schools will have some capital needs "down the road". BVT's superintendent, Dr. Fitzpatrick, has also requested funds from all participating towns to repair the HVAC system. The Committee is sensitive to those requests and will work with Jody K and other town officials and committees to be able to fund additional projects while financing the expansion.

Alejna spoke about the postcard project and that the Senior and Community Center Ballot Question Committee (private citizens supporting the Vote Yes) were paying for all the materials. Tom Fichtner is the Treasurer and he is recording every in-kind donation for transparency and the law. Phil requested a QR code be added to the postcards so people could access more information. Alejna will do so. The lawn signs will be distributed shortly.

One of the most frequently asked questions involves the future plans for our current building. The answer was that monies will be allocated to a capital plan for re-use of the building.

Alejna informed the group that the ballots for the May 14 election will be sent out around April 16. Mike G and Alejna will confirm the language on the Ballot question with Ellen Agro, Town Clerk.

Mark B spoke about MEMA and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan that he has been looking into. He referred us the 1993 Annual Report re: the history of the emergency shelter.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21, at 6:00 at the Police Station. (I took the liberty of updating the time based on Phil's recent memo to meet earlier.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Peg Nogueira

Acting Secretary