

Meeting Notes

April 23, 2024

Phil called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

In attendance: Phil Cieply, David Kurczy, Amy Wilson-Kent, Mike Goddard, Peg Nogueira, Karen Slattery-Meade, John Vandersluis, Mark Bucchino, Mike Petrovick and John Ramsey

It was decided that Chief Kurczy and Phil Cieply will represent the Committee on the floor of the Town Meeting. They will put together a solid presentation using facts and slides. Information will include:

- Benefits of the Senior Center to the entire Community
- Mention the Town Crier survey that Kevin Rudden (then COA Chairman) sent out in 2014 to get input on the needs of the senior community, and also the feasibility study done in 2018. (This addresses the complaint that the committee is “rushing into this”.)

Other Important points to mention were also raised:

- The new building will be an asset to the town
- The land was originally purposed for future municipal needs (Mike A)
- In the “dot points” on the handout, move up the Veterans support closer to the top of the list (Mike G)
- It will serve as the Town’s Emergency Shelter” (Mark B)
- It will be a place for Town organizations and clubs to meet (Dave K)
- The current center will be re-purposed, which will save the Town money by not having to build a new structure.
- CPC funds will be used for all the recreational aspects of the plan.
- We must clarify the various sources of the funding (Mike G). Mike P will be present to answer any specific questions on the architectural side of the project. He then shared his ideas on the value of a Senior Center to the committee.
- Being a place for elderly to socialize
- Improving their quality of life

- Provide a benefit to the community as a whole
- Give a sense of purpose to individuals
- Be sure to message “we” not “me”
- Most importantly, this is what we need and why we need it

We viewed Jody’s (Town Finance Director) slides and got the final tax impact numbers. The group is grateful to her for all her hard work!

Mike G spoke about the fact that there is a lot of future planning being done and that any groups can bring their project requests forward. This is the town’s debt schedule. It’s important to remember that voting it down doesn’t mean more services. There are many projects the town will look at to use the money.

A request has been received to allow Annie Parnas to hold a Farmers’ Market on the proposed site prior to the actual building phase. The Committee recommends supporting this endeavor.

The Postcard Project is completed and the speaking engagements continue:

- Phil and Dave will present at the Open House Wed. April 24 at the Senior Center.
- Phil and Peg, along with Carolyn Wass, Friends President, will participate on Sunday, April 28 at the “Hey Neighbor” open house at Galliford’s (Southwick Zoo).
- Phil and Peg will do a presentation for the school committee on Monday, April 29
- Peg will cover the Friends of the Taft Library on Tuesday April 30.
- Peg and Amy will meet to design an “insert” to go in the Senior Newsletter and to be used as a handout at the Open House. It will contain the current tax impact numbers.

Karen will cover the notes for Peg at the next meeting which is Tuesday April 30 at 6pm in the Police Station.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Peg Nogueira, Acting Secretary