

2011 11 21 SSCSDC MINUTES

Sterling Senior Center Site Development Committee Minutes of meeting on 11/21/11, 6:00 PM

Present: S.Bloom, G. Aubin, P. Fox, K. Beaupre, J. Chandler, J. Simpson, J. Kilcoyne joined meeting at 6:10 PM.

1) Call to order by Chairperson Bloom at 6:00 PM.

2) Roll call - taken by Chairperson Bloom.

3) Minutes of 10/24/11 - approved with one change under #9. The phrase “make sure” is to be changed to “see if”.

4) Discussion of COA comments on Third Draft of Recommendations.

- Discussion ensued with committee and Karen Phillips, COA Director. A written response from Ms. Phillips was read by Barbara Foster from the COA, due to Ms. Phillips fighting a serious case of laryngitis.

- Also, Ms. Phillips provided committee members with a list of volunteer hours and what areas were serviced.

- In response to a question from Pat Fox, Ms. Phillips said that the hours were comparable to volunteer hours worked in other communities.

5) Discussion of meeting with Conservation Commission.

- Per J. Simpson, a *notice* of intent to use the Muddy Pond/Griffin Road site for a senior center can be filed and should not be an insurmountable hurdle to this project. The care and control of this parcel does not rest with Conservation per that committee.

- Per Mr. Simpson, vernal pools exist, but *no endangered species exist where site work is proposed. It appears as if any environmental issues could be addressed.*

- Per question from P. Fox, no conservation committee member expressed any opposition to Senior Center project.

6) Final Review of Third Draft

- The COA did agree with all the recommendations in this draft, except for the 50% funding recommendation as they felt this was slightly unfair.

1.

- J. Kilcoyne asked that the committee consider one additional recommendation to the BOS. It was decided not to add this to the formal recommendation document, but on motion from K. Beaupre and second by P. Fox, it was voted unanimously to include *the addendum as an addition to the minutes*. In essence, this recommendation would have asked the BOS to consider also using and designing the proposed senior center as a community center to serve the needs of as many residents as possible.

- J. Simpson made the motion to accept the Third Draft of Recommendations as written. J. Chandler seconded the motion, vote was unanimous.

7) Formulate Plan to Present to BOS.

- Chairperson Bloom will request meeting with BOS to present this proposal and answer their questions.

- Ms. Bloom will lead presentation with the assistance of the committee.

8) Old Business - None

9) New Business

- K. Beaupre proposed that J. Simpson, G. Aubin and J. Chandler be recommended by this committee to serve on a future Building Committee. All nominees expressed their sincere gratitude to Kevin for his thoughtfulness! Second by P. Fox, vote was unanimous.

10 & 11) Set Date for Next Meeting & Adjourn

- Ms Bloom to coordinate next meeting prior to BOS meeting and notify members, meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM>

Last Minutes Gratefully Submitted by:

John Kilcoyne, Clerk

2.

Member Addendum from John Kilcoyne for Minutes

In view of all the data collected on senior centers in other communities by members of this committee as well our knowledge of the senior community and Sterling community in general, I would like to propose one additional recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, in particular, as well as the Council on Aging concerning this project.

While I still support this committee's earlier recommendations, and remain committed as long as they are followed unchanged by the COA to the best of their ability in the year ahead, I feel a new senior center has it's best chance of approval by voters if it is designed to serve as many individuals and groups as possible in our town.

I also feel this project will impact and be impacted by other capital projects in the near future, most notably the proposed renovations to the current community center, the 1835 Town Hall. I don't believe these two projects can go forward and be expected to operate in a vacuum from one another. In other words, their ultimate design and use will impact each other.

To get both projects right, I truly believe and would like this committee to recommend to the BOS that they address the issue once and for all of whether the 1835 building will remain as the Town's community center in the years to come. If this is done, then the current senior center project can go forward with a design and plan to accommodate seniors only. If the 1835 building is not to be maintained as a community center, then the current project should be re-designed by the next building committee to accommodate the groups that traditionally define a community center with senior center functions as the highest priority. Obviously, costs and funding sources will be much different, but the citizens of Sterling deserve to have a comprehensive plan for both projects to minimize long-term costs and maximize overall use.

John Kilcoyne,
Committee Member

3.