

Sterling Senior Center Design and Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building – COA Room

November 7, 2013 – 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Maureen Cranson, Ronald Cote, Richard Maki, Judy Reynolds, Peter Watson, Weymouth Whitney, Kevin Beaupre, Robert Bloom. **Absent:** Jack Chandler, Karen Phillips. **Guests:** Mary Cliett, Robert Cutler, Gerald Kokernak, Ed Sweet.

Open Meeting: Co-Chairman Cranson opened the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of October 30, 2013 were approved as written following a motion by Mr. Whitney and second by Mr. Cote. Vote: YEA = 6, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Budget Informational Forum: Ms. Cranson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to bring new members of the Finance Committee and Selectboard up to date with the Senior Center project and answer any questions about the projected finances. To that end, Ms. Cranson prepared a packet for each guest that included copies of documents related to the history, construction and financing of a proposed Center. She distributed and generally reviewed each document.

At 6:55 PM, Ms. Cranson began a formal presentation of the elements of the project, including the following major topics:

- History of past and present Senior Center efforts,
- Review of site selection process & Site Committee recommendations,
- Assistance of Whitman & Bingham in preparing site documents,
- Appearance before many Town committees seeking input,
- Debt service and tax impact upon average household,
- Questions regarding presentation to STM or Annual Town Meeting,
- Effect of two projects (1835 building) on past ATM project vote,
- Community use of the Senior Center,
- Community informational efforts and input by Town committees, police and fire chiefs, DPW superintendent, and school principal,
- Public fundraising & grant opportunities to support a portion of the construction cost,
- Negative impact of the prevailing wages laws on building costs,
- Merits and additional expense of adding a partial/full cellar.

Guests had numerous questions and observations throughout the presentation. The Committee consensus was not to present the Senior Center project at the Special Town Meeting expected in November-December, 2013, but at the ATM in May, 2014.

The Building Committee will continue to refine the overall cost of the future construction at a future meeting and provide the FinCom with the most accurate data available. The guests departed at 8:08 PM.

Open Discussion: The Building Committee continued with the task of identifying and clarifying construction expenses. Ms. Cranson will contact OPM Frank Kennedy to obtain an editable version of the budget planning document so that appropriate cost adjustments can be visualized and considered by the Committee.

Next Meeting: The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the COA Room.

Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 9:06 PM following unanimous consent to a motion by Mr. Whitney and second by Mr. Watson.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard H. Maki

Richard H. Maki, Clerk