

Sterling Senior Center Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building

Council on Aging Room
April 26, 2012 6:30 pm

Minutes

Present: Maureen Cranson, Richard Maki, Peter Watson, Weymouth Whitney.
Ex Officio: Terri Ackerman and Karen Phillips **Absent:** Jack Chandler.

Meeting Opening: Chairman Cranson opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of April 12, 2012 were approved as written following a motion by Whitney and a second by Cranson. Vote: YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 0

Discuss Communications: Cranson wrote to all Boards/Committees including the Planning Board, the Board of Health, the FinCom, and the ConCom relative to any concerns they may have regarding the site selection of the future senior center on Muddy Pond and Boutelle Roads. Phillips mailed a similar letter to the DCR for their written feedback.

The Planning Board responded by making several points about traffic issues, preservation of trees (under Conservation Commission control), distance from the Town center, and other less serious concerns and reached a decision not to approve the site for a Senior Center.

The Building Committee discuss all points presented by the Planning Board, disagreed with the Board on tree cutting provisions, acknowledged the safety issues of this and other Town sites, and came to the consensus that none would ultimately prevent the site from being used for a future senior center after a more careful review of additional facts from public safety officials and the ConCom.

A response was received from the Wachusett School District expressing a willingness to reopen negotiations and recommending consideration that the Town construct a sidewalk the length of Boutelle Road while the Center was being built. Cranson will ask Mr. Tuttle (DPW) for an estimate of the cost of the sidewalk.

Presentation to the ATM was deemed a first priority, with establishment of a narrower building footprint in response to perceived public questions. A *Powerpoint* presentation of about 5 minutes will be developed by Phillips and duplicated in a handout for voters. Ideas of presentation topics were discussed. A motion was approved to prepare the presentation, YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 0, following a motion by Cranson and seconded by Watson.

Town wide Support: The Committee will hold a meeting of the site neighbors on Monday, May 7th at 7:00 pm in the Senior Center to further inform the citizens of future construction on the town-owned site and listen to their concerns. A letter will be sent to all abutters of the school property inviting them to the evening meeting. It will be a public meeting and will be posted as required.

Cranson will craft a letter to the editor (The Landmark) addressing warrant article 24 and requesting that it be published as soon as possible. The Committee acknowledged that the timeline was very short and publication may not be possible. The Committee voted to approve the letter following a motion by Maki, seconded by Whitney, YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Future Agenda: Space analysis, Neighborhood meeting, preparation for the ATM

Next Meeting: May 3, 2012 at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the COA room at the Butterick Municipal Building.

Adjournment: Moved by Watson and seconded by Maki: YEA = 4, Nay = 0, ABS = 0, at 8:37 pm.

Submitted by
Richard H. Maki, Clerk