

Sterling Senior Center Design and Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building - Council on Aging Room

May 7, 2012 7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Opening of Meeting by Co-Chairman Cranson occurred at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2012 followed a motion by Chandler and seconded by Whitney. YEA = 5, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Warrant Article #24 Presentation: Following an introduction of the Design and Building Committee, Cranson presented a *PowerPoint* description of the major points of the proposed Senior Center and distributed copies to 14 interested citizens in attendance. During the presentation, the audience asked questions and offered their opinions of numerous facets of the proposed project.

A sampling of the public comments were as follows:

- Have other sites been investigated?
- This is our neighborhood, noise and road issues – I don't want it.
- Traffic issues – over 30 buses come flying in (Elem- Chocksett – High School)
- Seniors have indecisive driving skills – safety issue with kids walking/on bikes.
- Multiple use of building will cause increased parking overflow for neighbors.
- Already a busy street (Boutelle) and this will change the nature of the street.
- We are already doing our part for the town – neighborhood location of school.
- Use the eyesores in the center of town – for a building location.
- Removing trees voids sound, wind and visual barrier.
- Current issues with noise from snow clearing and dumpster removal, blind hill.
- Site easy to grade, enhance school projects, overlooks Mt. Wachusett.
- Parking during school events presently creates problems for neighbors.
- Not all promises from past school construction were kept lights & SPARC pump.
- Project creates more unintended consequences from stuff already going on.

Cranson responded to these comments throughout the meeting and referred to the written material to show the past history of project and how the Site Selection Committee chose the location. She also mentioned that the site was town-owned land and that fact was a request of the Finance Committee.

Summary of remarks: parking/traffic issues; loss of visual, acoustic, and wind barrier issues with altered pine stand; negative impact on property values; past unintended consequences; prefer that it not be another building in their neighborhood. The Committee will instruct a future architect of the importance of all of the neighborhood concerns.

Phillips will be requested information about numbers and peak times of daily senior drivers currently visiting the Senior Center.

Finalize ATM Presentation: The Committee agreed by consensus to reduce the number of PowerPoint frames to six and Maki will take responsibility for duplicating sufficient copies for the ATM

Next Meeting: May 24, 2012 at the Butterick Municipal Building, COA Room at 6:30 pm.

Proposed Agenda Items: Review ATM actions and work on next steps to be taken.

Adjournment: Following a motion by Watson, seconded by Whitney, the Committee adjourned at 9:04 pm. YEA = 5, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Submitted by
Richard H. Maki