

Sterling Senior Center Design and Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building - COA Room

May 22, 2013 - 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Co-Chairman Maureen Cranson, Richard Maki, Peter Watson, Weymouth Whitney.
Ex Officio: Terri Ackerman. **Absent:** Jack Chandler, Ronald Cote. Ex Officio: Karen Phillips.
Public: Robert Bloom, Sharon Bloom, Kevin Beaupre, Barbara Foster.

Minutes: The minutes of May 16, 2013 were approved following a motion by Mr. Whitney and second by Ms. Cranson. VOTE: YEA = 3, NAY = 0, ABS = 1.

Public Comment: Ms. Cranson allowed public input throughout the meeting.

Review of Board of Selectmen's Meeting: Three members of the Building Committee participated in the BOS meeting held at 4:00 pm today in the BOS room. The roles of the BOS members were reconstituted and a new member, Mr. Robert Cutler, replaced departing BOS member Paul Sushchyk. Key points discussed under the agenda item that reviewed actions concerning the Building Committee by the Annual Town Meeting included:

- Interest in using the term "community" in the building name to clarify that the building will have community uses in addition to being a senior center.
- Introduction of the 1835 project into the discussion of Article 12 may have "muddled" the focus of the Article.
- The importance of providing information about future COA programs and activities and openness to "creative ideas" was asserted.
- The need to move the project forward quickly in order to maintain the existing financial conditions for bonding/construction was mentioned.
- Concern over statements made by the Chairman of the Planning Board at the ATM was presented by the Building Committee and rebutted by the Planning Board Chairman.

The Building Committee discussed having a meeting with the newest BOS member to bring him up-to-date with the progress of the Committee and the details associated with construction of the proposed senior center. Members also expressed interest in soliciting and answering questions from Selectman Cutler and Mr. Joseph Sova of the Finance Committee as to what they need to be resolved in order for the project to move forward. Concerns were also raised about the mechanics of the ATM, specifically the need to adequately recognize audience members representing positions for and against the motion. Ms. Ackerman said that some towns have two public microphones, one for those speaking in favor of a motion and another for voters opposed. Procedurally, the town moderator can recognize alternating opinions possibly leading to a balanced public discussion.

The possibility of having a Special Town Meeting at sometime in the early fall was discussed. Issues relating to the Regional School budget, articles tabled at the ATM, medical marijuana, and the senior center could be discussed and voted upon.

Ms. Ackerman requested Committee input in responding to a request by the MRPC regarding traffic studies in Sterling. A Committee member will meet with Ms. Ackerman to determine information most useful to planning the senior center at the intersection of Muddy Pond and Boutelle Roads.

Next Steps: (1)Mr. Chandler, Ms. Cranson and Mr. Beaupre (Mr. Maki = alternate) will seek to meet with selectman Cutler to update him about the project and attempt to respond to his concerns. (2)Ms. Cranson, and possibly others, will seek to meet with Mr. Joseph Sova of the Finance Committee to identify his concerns about moving the project forward. (3)Ms. Ackerman and Mr. Maki will meet to better identify the parameters of the MRPC traffic study. (4)Ms. Ackerman will explore the details of future ballot vote regarding the senior center. (5)The Building Committee will meet with the Planning Board on May 29, 2013 to discuss views expressed by the PB Chairman at the ATM. (6)Invite Mr. Jamie Rheault to the Building Committee meeting on May 30, 2013 to review potential future Committee actions regarding senior center issues.

Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 8:25 pm following a successful motion by Mr. Whitney and second by Mr. Watson. VOTE: YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Maki

Richard H. Maki, Clerk