

Sterling Senior Center Design and Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building - COA Room

August 15, 2013 - 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Jack Chandler (A=6:41), Maureen Cranson, Richard Maki, Judy Reynolds (A=6:37), Peter Watson, Weymouth Whitney. Kevin Beaupre and Robert Bloom. Karen Phillips. **Absent:** Ronald Cote.

Open Meeting: The meeting opened at 6:36 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of 8-1-2013 were approved as written following a motion by Mr. Watson and second by Mr. Whitney. Vote: YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Citizen's Proposal: Because of a reported "snag", the party presenting the Citizen's Proposal was unable make their presentation this evening. Without an awareness of the facts of the presentation, the Committee was unable to proceed.

Updates: Ms. Cranson reported that she and Mr. Chandler had been invited to meet with SMLD Commissioner Michael Rivers, Manager Sean Hamilton and Selectman Robert Cutler to begin a discussion of implications of a purchase of the Webster building by the Light Department. The talks were described as very preliminary and tentatively identified 5,800 SF within the 36,000 SF building for possible use as a new senior center. Purchase of the building, in part, depends upon future expansion of a natural gas line into Sterling. While awaiting further details expected in approximately two months, the group agreed to reconvene at that time. Ms. Cranson expressed some concern about the limited size potentially available to the seniors and uncertainty regarding future expansion.

Mr. Jamie Rheault from Whitman and Bingham will be present on August 29, 2013 to discuss possible alternatives regarding site plans for Muddy Pond Road.

The Sterling Board of Selectmen have invited the Building Committee to their meeting on September 12, 2013 to update them on Committee progress.

Mr. Frank Kennedy, former project OPM, contacted Ms. Cranson and continued to express his interest in the building project and offered to assist where possible.

Ms. Cranson stated that Selectmen are not currently planning to schedule a Special Town Meeting this fall. The Building Committee is looking forward to the 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Cranson repeated interest by Selectman Cutler in having basement space included in any future building design. Topographic information expected from Mr. Rheault may lend further clarity to the feasibility and cost of the proposal.

Ms. Karen Phillips will report at the next meeting on any available funds that remain under the jurisdiction of the Council on Aging.

Ms. Reynolds recommended that the Committee continue to inform the public about building developments to maintain community interest and support for future plans. Ms. Cranson said that she was already in contact with a local reporter.

Adjournment: The Committee adjourned following a motion by Mr. Maki, seconded by Mr. Watson at 7:21 pm. Vote: YEA = 6, NAY = 0, ABS = 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Maki
Richard H. Maki, Clerk