

Senior Center Expansion Committee, Site sub committee minutes 10-4-19

Senior Center, 7 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA

Members present: Doug Field, Donna Liebl, Sylvia Smith, Mike McCusker, Joanne Soroka
Guests: Andrew Baker, Richard Feury, Mark Vandale, Lynne Kelsey, Jackie Walsh, Jackie Salem, Kristian Whitsett

Members absent: Cathy Buntin

CTO 9:30

Public comment:

Lynne and Dick- what % of vote needed to pass for town meeting?

Secretaries report- Sylvia addresses 2 sets of minutes from Sept 25 meeting. Upon discovery that Executive Session open meeting rule did not apply to meet with the Mason's on Sept 25, the minutes of that meeting were released.

Regular minutes accepted unanimously with addition of Jerry Hoyt at the meeting.

Public comment:

Andrew Baker- last forum -poor set up and dissatisfaction with no feedback due to format of last presentation.

discussion about PR and information flow.

Big gap in those who know about project, and those who don't.

There is not enough information out there.

Discussion about general concerns, including:

Jump in operating costs

Space and cost should be most important. The mood in the public is lowest and cheapest.

Why not satellite sites. Evenings/weekends. A- Mike- programming will develop.

Friday schedules- closed to the public-A- appropriate for the type of meetings going on. The Center is being used for other programming on Fridays. (privacy, quiet)

Andrew- discussion about finances.

What would 10 yr. funding look like?

Town of Shelburne could give us the Arms land at little or no charge.

Any guarantee towns won't change agreements somewhere down the line?

Long term lease or loans, and ownership. short discussion.

Advice from Donna MacNichol- not a model generally used.

Jackie W- Revisit Mole hollow and Buckland Police.

Some public would like to see the spaces.

Lynne- concerned about warming center wording.

Community impact conversation.

Discussion about how to weight values for items. revisit.

Mark- Respect the history of the neighborhood, the Historic value and integrity, Thanks Andrew for thinking outside the box.

close public comments

Sites being considered update- Kristian-shows site plans for Cowell, Follow up with Highland Village-Working on getting certification from the state to clarify ownership. We will wait before going further. Later mentions how formidable the problem is, and how much it will impact surrounding area. Best to solve ownership.

Quick conversation about the image of the SC and who is welcome. More effort to promote The Senior Center at SF

Back to Cowell, Very small land, is parking an issue? Dick- With Arms and Cowell shouldn't be a problem.

Mike- We are still focusing on 4 sites primarily, before we invest time and money.

Sylvia will follow up on Buckland Police.

Preparation for Nov 6 discussion -Kristian wants to know details for his part of Nov 6 meeting.

Doug- We have to investigate operating costs for Nov 6

Discussion about spread sheet, and simplifying the 20 sites and their rankings. Include list of criteria to show work done.

Dick- more signatures from neighborhood, as more info is out now.

Sylvia- We hope to have a larger discussion, but first to the Expansion committee.

Determine zoning classification for later use.

What can we accomplish at meeting? Community impact, Traffic Parking? how to weight?

Jackie- Why Mole Hollow is not good? A- Parking, exiting Deerfield Ave.

Jackie- Urges us to estimate costs. A- We did at Sept 11 meeting.

Lynne- concerned about our spending, and if we have enough money. A- Yes. We do.

Public comment

Andrew B-What do we most want to get out of Nov 6?

Discussion about architectural drawings being available at meeting. A- just schematics. Too costly to draw roofs, windows etc at this time.

Andrew B- He put Arms site in front of us, because it is his public job, and it is a town resource. All the other sites have problems. He wants all 4000 voters of the towns to weigh in. Visuals will help.

A- Visually, Mole Hollow and Buckland Police will remain the same.

Kristian- Design takes a lot of back and forth with the client, to paint a picture of what a building will look like.

Andrew- The Science building was a big, ugly building. Make the Arms site an educational region for seniors.

Dick- Petition states the desire for nothing there. Anything will detract from the beauty of Arms. We **don't** want to urbanize the neighborhood.

Lynne- Reconsider who should use the **basement** space at the potential Arms site.

A-Mike- We are not talking about design yet.

Mark- Survey- thought it was mailed., thinks it was not dispersed well.

Sylvia- Had a conversation about the Singley .12 acre lot on Bridge St. We are focusing on the 4 main sites, but will keep it to refer to.

Short discussion about parking at Mole Hollow.

Next meetings.Site- Oct 25 9:30

Design Possible merge?

Expansion- 10-30-19 6:00 SC

Motion to adjourn 11:12 a.m. Joanne/Doug- approved
meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Soroka, Secretary

