

Senior Center Expansion Committee Site sub committee minutes 10-25-19

Senior Center, 7 Main St, Shelburne Falls, ma

Members present: Doug Field, Mike McCusker, Sylvia Smith, Cathy Buntin, Joanne Soroka
absent-Donna Liebl, Matt Marchese

Guests: Donna MacNicol- counsel, George Dole-JWA, Lynne Kelsey, Richard Feury, William Seibert, Dan Mellman, Pam Kelleher, Chris Meyers, Cherie Rankin

Meeting CTO-9:35 by Mike McCusker

Mike- Welcome and clarification of meeting- site committee.

clarification of protocol for meeting, no conversation with public except for defined times.

Introduce Donna MacNicol- legal counsel.

Review of minutes 10-4-19- Donna MacNicol clarifies what should be in minutes.

Discussion about the public's participation at meetings. Minutes accepted with corrections unanimous. Doug Field/ Sylvia Smith seconded

Mike McCusker makes motion to conduct meeting and the public share thoughts when needed. Sylvia Smith - second. Unanimous

Discussion of merger of Site and Design committees.

Sylvia Smith moves, Doug Field seconds we move Site and design to one subcommittee under the Senior Center Expansion committee.
passed unanimous.

Review of OML- (Open meeting law) Donna MacNicol goes over the complaint filed, and addresses what we- the site committee did wrong at that meeting, how it occurred, and what we should do going forward in regards to meetings. The Open Meeting Law Guide issued from the Commonwealth was distributed. - see attached

The three issues in the complaint were-

- Illegally inviting civilians to our Executive session- in the future we will not invite the Masons to any Executive sessions.
 - The minutes were intentionally sanitized-as per council- that is not a fair critique of the minutes.
 - withholding a "contract" from the Masons. -A document received by a public body is presumed to be public. The "offer" letter should be made public. As per Donna MacNicol- Any record received by this body is public record. We will make the letter public. Donna MacNicol clarifies- It is up to us, where and how to make public records available. It is not necessary for them to be on the website. We do not have to make past Executive session minutes public until the deal is done.
- Q & A Board and Donna MacNicol- Including but not limited to, What should be public, and when, including negotiation minutes, inspection reports, any offers.
- When and why to go into Executive session, and that ultimately, Town meeting will make the decisions. We are going through this process to be able to present the best choice to the various boards and eventually the towns.
- The order for information flow is: Site/design- Expansion Committee- Senior Center Board-Select Boards/ Finance Boards- Town Meetings
- Discussion about how to arrive at price, who should be the negotiators and when do we make this information public. The Expansion Committee should make some of these decisions and recommendations.
- Review and discuss then respond to Ms. Kelsey's complaint.
- see attached w/ remedies including but not limited to- Time, place, date, members present and absent listed.
- List of Documents at meeting, decisions and actions.
- To the complaint-
- We responded to the complaint.
- We read the response letter to Ms. Kelsey and a copy to the Attny General's office.
- Richard Feury thanks Donna MacNicol for great job explaining. He would like a copy of the Mason's letter and suggests the reporter present may want to publish it, to get it out to everyone.
- Sylvia Smith moves - Seconded by Mike McCusker. We accept Ms Kelsey's complaint to the Attorney General and to satisfy the complaint approve the oct 25 letters to Ms. Kelsey and Amy Nable of the Attny Generals office and to authorize Cathy Buntin to mail the letters.
- Approved unanimous.
- Sites being considered update-Mike McCusker- Cowell site is "off to the side" for now. We are still trying to figure out ownership.
- FRCOG has a request from the Town of Buckland to do a site evaluation at the Buckland Police station Oil leak situation. If it is petroleum, there may be monies available for remediation. It could take 4-6 months.
- Sylvia Smith- still no formal response from the town about purchase.
- Masonic hall- SVE and Dan Werner have been here. - the legal site has been defined.

Preparation for Nov Site forums-

George Dole presents-Explains ranking system, and describes questions and scoring. Then we evaluate the results from all 3 events.

Discussion about how to best get the word out about forums.

Lynne Kelsey- heard survey would be on Survey Monkey? A-It is, for the senior program survey. There is a paper copy of the survey from the forums distributed in various places in all three towns.

Richard Feury - asks for clarification around scoring.

George goes over Site selection criteria sheet and scoring, including negative values. See attached

Lynne Kelsey- feels there is too much information on sheets.

Richard Feury-asking about how negatives will be valued.

Discussion about how to query the public. The survey could be confusing.

Maybe make it 2 parts. Discussion about how to best present it, for the best information.

Question to George, Can this be ready for the upcoming Expansion committee meeting?

A-Yes.

Slide show overview presented by George. Public site forum packet passed out.

Richard Feury - reminds us there is strong opposition from the neighborhood, and Alumni, and could we have handouts to remind people?

Next meetings- 10/30- Expansion committee 6:00 SC

Site- 11/22 9:30 SC

Nov/Dec Expansion committee- Dec 5, 6:00 SC

Mike McCusker makes motion to adjourn, Cathy Buntin seconds. Unanimous- Adjourn 12:38

Respectfully submitted Joanne Soroka. secretary