

Senior Center Expansion Committee Arms Lot Forum Survey Summary

March 28, 2019

The Senior Center Expansion Committee at its February 28, 2019 meeting heard the summary results of the presentation “The Senior Center Toward the Future: Options and Next Steps” by Jones Whitsett Architects as presented by Kristian Whitsett and George Dole, of JWA, and Cathleen Buntin, Senior Center Director. Sylvia Smith, Expansion Committee chair, introduced the presentation and moderated discussion. The summary included the following: over 100 community members attended the forums; 92 surveys were returned and tallied. Overall weighted rankings of the four sites under consideration were: 1. Arms Lot – 174; 2. Mechanic and Church Street (116); 3. Mole Hollow (66); 4. Buckland Police Station (54). It was voted to further investigate possible site options on the Shelburne Historical Society/Arms Academy lot owned by the Town of Shelburne and seek input from the neighborhood and broader community. For additional information go to: <https://www.townofshelburne.com/p/22/Senior-Center>.

Arms Lot Forum

The Options The “Senior Center Toward the Future: Review of Site Options near Arms Academy” presentation by Jones Whitsett Architects followed the same format as the February Forums and was given at The Senior Center, 7 Main Street, Shelburne Falls on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m. Following the introduction, history and mission, role of the senior, general funding and demographics, the site options were discussed including existing Senior Center data and future program analysis. Four options were presented for consideration on the 1.58-acre lot; Option A, two story building on the North (Church Street) Side of Historical Society Museum/Arms Academy; Option B, two story on Severance Street near Trinity Church; Option C, one story on Maple Street along the ball field; and Option D, two story on the south side of the Historical Society Museum/Arms Academy.

Survey respondents Residents of Severance Street, Church Street, Maple Street, Gardner Avenue, and Warren Avenue were sent invitations to the presentation with a public invitation extended through the media and the Senior Center. Invitations were also extended to the Shelburne Historical Society, Trinity Church and the Shelburne Recreation Committee. Sixty people attended the presentation and the 39 survey respondents included 13 from the neighborhood, 3 from the Historical Society, 4 from Trinity Church, 0 from the Recreation Committee, 18 community-at-large residents, 5 municipal officials, and 3 indicating “other.”

Ranking of Options The ranking of the sites as first choice, second choice and third choice revealed the following strong support for Option A, the north side of the Historical Society/Arms (parking lot). To determine a composite score rankings were weighted 3, 2 and 1 for first, second and third choice: Option A – 75; Option B – 19; Option C – 16; Option D – 10. The Site elimination question tally (1 point) was: Option A – 0; Option B -5; Option C – 11; Option D – 13; all sites – 9. **A total combined weighted ranking (site choice ranking-elimination score) was: Option A – 66; Option B – 5; Option C A- negative 4; Option D – negative 12.**

Next steps *The Site subcommittee, on March 27, voted to recommend to the Expansion Committee at the March 28 meeting that the Arms Lot Option A site be further researched and prepared as the site for a new senior center based on the strong support from the public forums.*