

Expansion Committee Meeting, 10/30/19, 6 p.m.
Senior Center, 7 Main St., Shelburne Falls

Present: Sylvia Smith, Michael McCusker, Suzanne E. Bishop, Penny Spearance, Doug Field, Carl Satterfield, Donna Liebl, George Dole, Margaret Payne, Ellen Eller, Jackie Walsh; **Absent:** Joanne Soroka, Matthew Marchese, Zack Turner, Paula Consolo, Anne Yuryan, Cathy Buntin. **Guests:** Anita Chase, Martin D.L. Driggs, Pam Kelleher, Suzette Agey-Nichols, Lynne Kelsey.

Chair Sylvia Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. She said secretary Joanne Soroka was out of town and minutes of the 9/26 meeting were unavailable at this time.

Treasurer Suzanne Bishop reported costs of \$4970 to Jones-Whitsett to cover specs on the Masonic Building and the Arms site, work with Renaissance Builders and an inspection report; and \$62.50 to MacNicol & Tombs for review of a letter and phone conference. This left a balance of \$43,640. She presented two bills for the committee's approval: Carl Satterfield moved to approve the \$1871 to Jones-Whitsett; Doug Field seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Carl then moved to approve the \$562.50 to MacNicol & Tombs; Doug also seconded that motion, which passed unanimously.

The chair referred to a letter received from Lynne Kelsey, who had sent a complaint to the state Attorney General about an apparent violation of open meeting law at a site committee executive session because members of the Masons were on hand. Town Counsel Donna MacNicol was at the 10/25 site committee meeting; this was a mistake, and such negotiation meetings with "civilians" will be open in the future. Jackie Walsh asked how this committee can negotiate with the Masons when it is not a town board. It was explained that the committee makes a recommendation to the Senior Center Board, and that recommendation goes to the Shelburne Select Board and ultimately to annual town meetings.

Re: the Center's search for a Planning Coordinator, an RFP has been issued and a special committee will review any proposals received.

Sylvia noted that we are entering a new phase of the project and it is hoped that the upcoming public forums will give us a clearer idea of what the communities are thinking.

Mike McCusker moved to merge the site and design committees; Carl Satterfield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mike also said he would consult Donna MacNicol seeking advice on the process of talking to the Masons. Again, the recommendation from the Expansion Committee would go to Senior Center Board and on to municipalities.

George Dole of Jones-Whitsett Architects gave a preview of the upcoming public site forum presentations for discussion as well as drafts of two surveys that will be conducted: one very short and quick, the other more detailed. The surveys will be available at the public forums and online so that every town resident has an opportunity to weigh in. Online responses will be kept separate from in-person surveys. Discussion followed, including public comments and suggestions about showing potential costs of each site, anticipated funding sources, and pros and cons re: the sites. The deadline for submission of surveys is Dec. 2.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Next meeting: Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Eller
for Joanne Soroka