

Dover Community Center Building Committee

Meeting of May 28, 2008

Minutes

Building Committee Members Attending: David Billings, Samantha Burman, Jane Hemstreet, Carol Lisbon, Dick Malcom, Alison Piper, Scott Seidman, Ford Spalding, Dana White, & Kathy Weld

Other Attendees: Charlotte Canelli (Library Director), Holly Collins, Allen Goldberg, Tina Greenfield, Jean McDonnell, Kate Haviland, Karen McKoy, Beth Paisner, Kristen Sampson & Nancy Weinstein

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM in the Town Hall Selectmen's meeting room.

Minutes of May 14, 2008 were accepted.

Kristen Sampson, Chairperson, of the **Great Room Subcommittee** reviewed their report of March 2008. This was followed by a general discussion of their findings. The discussion came to the following conclusions:

That there is a need for a "large room with character". Perhaps a room the same size as the current Great Room in the Town Hall? The room in the Chatham, MA Community Center was used as an example. The room would be a multipurpose room and should be able to be divided to become several multipurpose rooms depending on the need.

In addition it was suggested that the current Great Hall Room in the Town House be retained and improvements to soundproofing and acoustics be made so it can be used during the day, as well as nights and weekends, by the community. And, that it be used, and encouraged to be used today, by the Board of Selectmen. Some uses may require modifications of the Town House kitchen; this should be evaluated as part of any Great Hall renovations.

Alison Piper, Chairperson, of the **Alternative Sites Subcommittee** reviewed their report of March 25, 2008. There was a general discussion by the Subcommittee, Library director and trustees and the Building Committee related to the Subcommittee report.

The Alternative Sites report recommended that the Community Center building(s) be at the same site as the Dover Library.

The Library trustees stated that they required at a minimum an additional 4,000 sq ft (They currently occupy approximately 11,000 sq ft) to meet their existing and future programs and storage needs. They stated that this should be dedicated space for the Library. They also indicated that they preferred to have all library space on one floor for staffing and security reasons.

The Library director and trustees were favorable to having the Community Center in the same location but indicated that it should be separate from the Library and that the Community Center should not negatively impact Library services or programming. It is important to note that both maintaining a separate Library identity and enhancing rather than detracting from Library services are not only local concerns, but also requirements of the Massachusetts Board of Library

Commissioners, which would otherwise require that the state and federal grants made for the previous expansion be repaid (and presumably, not approve additional grants for the new expansion.). The trustees and director thought that there could be favorable synergy between the two entities, if sufficient staff and funding were available for the Community Center and if the town could overcome the existing “silo mentality” and related lack of communication between town departments.

Carol Lisbon reported that she and Alison Piper had met with Dave Ramsay, Craig Hughes and Bob Homer to review available library site information. It appears that from this preliminary review that there are no known obstacles to further development on the site.

There seemed to be agreement that what needs to be determined: Is their another use (private or public) for the existing Caryl School Building and/or site? The only way the combined existing Library site can make financial sense is if the Caryl School Building and/or site can be developed and used by a private entity that would pick up the financial costs. It was suggested that the Board of Selectmen authorize the development of an RFP to obtain proposals from developers on the use of the Caryl School site.

Future Meeting Dates:

June 11 Meet at the Caryl School Building & Discuss its Future Use as a Community Center

June 25 Discussion/Decisions

July 9 – July 22 – August 12 – August 27 : Additional Meeting Dates

Starting Sept 19 we will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month for the balance of 2008

The meeting adjourned at 8:47PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Ford Spalding, Chair