

Dover Community Center Building Committee
Meeting of January 28, 2009
Minutes

Building Committee Members Attending: David Billings, Jane Hemstreet, Dick Malcom, Nancy Simms, Ford Spalding, Nancy Weinstein, Kathy Weld & Dana White

Other Attendees: Carol Lisbon (Selectman), Scott Seidman (Warrant Committee), Jean McDonnell (Alternative Sites Sub Committee), John Quackenbush (Gym/Physical Activities Sub Committee), Sharon Grant (Great Room Sub Committee) and Charlie Long (Alternative Sites Committee)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Lower Conference Room.

Minutes of January 14, 2009 were approved.

Ford Spalding provided the following brief summary of the Committee's activities since June 2008:

- the committee looked at other community centers;
- it looked at other possible sites in town, including and especially the library;
 - the library did not express strong interest, and had concerns about maintaining the integrity of and the federal funding for its own programs
 - there has not been any developer interest in the Caryl building, which would be necessary if a community center were to be located at another site
- it looked into having an indoor athletic facility and ultimately agreed that we should have one, that it should be attached or adjacent to a community center, it should be financed through donations and the raising of private dollars, and it would need a strong advocacy;
- it agreed there should be a large community meeting/activity space, but at the same time the Great Hall should be made more usable;
- it advertised a Request for Information, soliciting interest from developers in the Caryl site; to date, only 2 firms had picked up the information, and no proposals had been returned (deadline February 2);
- it has looked at both current and potential community center user groups and programs to determine their current and desired space use;
- it agreed it did not want to tear down the Caryl building and just have grass;
- it looked at renovating all or part of existing buildings
- on January 14, 2009, it voted unanimously to develop a conceptual design and master plan for renovating and upgrading the Caryl building and site to serve as the Dover Community Center for intergenerational community use.
- it recommended to the Selectmen that they include in the operating budget the necessary funding for additional custodial services to maintain the cleanliness and functionality of the building for its users, and that the following 3 articles be placed on the warrant for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting:
 - funding for additional structural work to finish last year's roof and masonry repairs
 - funding for continued repair and renovations based on using Caryl on a permanent basis as an intergenerational community center
 - funding for professional assistance to develop a conceptual design and master plan for renovations and building code compliance going forward

The Building Committee and Sub Committee members discussed the Building Committee's work and the decision to recommend to the town that the current Caryl Building be designated as the Dover Community Center.

There was also brief discussion about the best way to disseminate information and educate the community, going beyond newspaper articles, open forums, and cable T.V. programs. A You Tube link from the Town website was suggested. It was deemed essential to have a good advertising plan, clearly articulating to the

townspeople the value of this community space to all. Members stressed the importance of not scheduling athletic activities that conflict with Town Meeting, so as to enable attendance by all constituencies.

The Building Committee reviewed the Mills Whitaker Architects report of January 22, 2009 in detail, developing questions and comments to be discussed with Don Mills, architect, at our regular meeting on February 11, 2009. This report was the result of our request of October 22, 2008 related to a description of code, infrastructure, maintenance and repair requirements for the building if it is to be used as a Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Ford Spalding
Chair