



Great Room Committee

Minutes of Meeting – October 23, 2007

Attending: Kristen Sampson – Committee
Tina Greenfield – Committee
Paul Keleher – Committee
Sharon Grant – Committee
Dana White - Committee

Liaisons: Kathy Weld – Selectmen
David Stapleton – Warrant Committee

Business:

The minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Kristen Sampson reviewed a list of potential uses of a Great Room:

- DSEF Gala, Chickering Auction, other community fundraiser dinners and auctions – currently held at out of town country clubs
- Dover Cub scout annual dinner – currently held out of town (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts?)
- Town sports teams annual dinners – at least some held out of town
- Cultural exhibits – craft show, train show, art show – not happening or held out of town (Needham) or on reduced basis in town churches
- Town-wide holiday events – Chinese New Year, Easter, Halloween, Christmas, New Year – currently at church or outdoors with town house as back-up
- Entertainer performances – magician, music, puppet/mime, comedy, dance – scattered amongst schools, library, Caryl, less than ideal spaces
- Movie night – children and/or families, seniors – not happening
- Teen center for weekends and vacations – live bands, dances, movies, entertainers, “hang out” spot – not happening / what do youth do in town?
- Private receptions and parties – happening in town public and private space and out of town
- Central location for large town meetings (annual meeting) - currently at high school
- May double for park & rec space for certain programs / times

Some additional information was provided on the BC location:

Pros

- catering capability
- variable purpose – can accommodate theater, classes, functions
- 3 rooms of large size
- support staff, private management

Cons

- pricey
- long lead time for scheduling

- not conducive to family / children events
- not focused on serving the community

Void that DCC Great Room fills vs. this space:

- Connors Retreat is “corporate” type space vs. community space. Not an appropriate environment for activities envisioned for community room.
- These events either currently do not occur or happen elsewhere in Dover or neighboring towns.
- Fills a need for community identity, pride and vision – currently, residents are creatively doing without. Focal point for community activities rather than being scattered across town and in other towns.
- All neighboring towns have community centers and/or new center planned.

Further discussion ensued regarding the existing Great Room at the Town House and the potential for use of that location. Aside from the expense associated with renovations, code compliance and sound proofing, the problem of interference with existing town employees cannot be discounted.

Dana White also brought up the fact that Charles River School is building a large multi-use building for sports and potential Great Room Activities.

The Next meeting will be held on November 6, 2007. Kristen will prepare a draft of our committee report. All are urged to input.

Submitted by Paul Keleher