Capital Budget Committee
Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Capital Budget Committee (CBC) members present:
Bob Springett (Chair), Kate Cannie, Fred Hammerle, Robyn Hunter, Andrew Phelan, Mark Sarro

Warrant Committee (WC) members present:
Katie Cannie (Chair), Erika Alders, John Cone, Brooks Gerner, Fred Hammerle, James Stuart

Ms. Cannie and Mr. Springett called to order the joint meeting of the CBC and WC at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Springett summarized the types of information the CBC and WC will request from the Caryl Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) to inform consideration of the FY 2019 capital requests for the Caryl Community Center (CCC). Mr. Springett discussed four specific types of information: answers to questions from committee members, issues the CMAC should address, a template on usage (who uses the building, when, how much of the usable space is used and unused), and a financial template.

Mr. Stuart summarized the substance of the November 8 CMAC meeting. The CMAC is collecting information in anticipation of further discussions with the CBC, WC and Town residents.

Members reviewed the CCC floor plan and the building’s current primary users. In addition to current uses and users, there was discussion of the need to understand the range of possible alternative uses for such a building and the corresponding costs. For example, how much of the space at the CCC does the Town need, given that the only two Town departments using the building now are the Council on Aging and Parks and Recreation? Are other future uses a priority for Dover? What do new community centers in similar towns, such as Needham and Wellesley, include and at what cost?

The committees agreed that a clear record and shared understanding of prior proposals relating to the CCC is a helpful starting point for a well-informed discussion of the current requests. Voters at prior Town Meetings clearly agreed to stabilize the building, but not necessarily to spend on long-term renovation, or in an amount that would trigger code compliance upgrades. However, there are differing views on many of the same facts, and we should avoid becoming mired in different interpretations of past events, but rather, look forward and articulate an affirmative vision for what a community center in Dover, if any, should include.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Sarro