

West Newbury Community Center Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

Meeting was called to order by Vanessa Graham.

Attendees: Vanessa Graham, Dick Cushing, Mary Harada, Joel Grossman, Susan Babb, and Theresa Woodbury. Administrative Assistant, Peggie Poore.

Administrative Updates:

Peggie Poore was introduced as the Committee Administrative Assistant.

Noah Elias-Guy will be sworn in by the town clerk when he returns.

Nick Murphy will not continue on the Committee; and Jill Eichhorst has submitted her resignation from the Committee.

Vanessa has agreed to continue as Chair of the committee.

Financial report accepted as presented.

Minutes from the June meeting were presented. Mary noted that she did not attend that meeting as was stated in the minutes. A motion was made by Susan to accept the minutes with the amendment that Mary Harada was absent from the meeting. Motion seconded by Dick. Passed.

Vanessa reported on the meeting with the Selectman. They have given approval to pursue the plan that was presented to them regarding the possible use of the Annex as a potential Community Center location. They would like an update during the winter to follow up on the progress of the committee.

Working Document was discussed and is being used as an informal way to add to the list of either Pros or Cons of evolving The Annex. Discussion as to the ownership of the Annex, is it part of the town building or separate. Questions as to whether the Annex would be "grandfathered in" with regards to certain codes.

Concern over the accuracy of the Annex Usage list. Vanessa will work on drafting a plan for the usage of available space, such as what groups could utilize the same space with minimum adjustment.

Groveland Community Center Project. It was suggested that the Committee talk with Groveland regarding their Community Center Project. Theresa suggested that we also talk with Newburyport. After some discussion, it was decided to also talk with Amesbury and Merrimac as each town has a different model. Vanessa will email the group once she has set up times to see who might be available to do the visits with her.

New Business & Next Steps

Need to gather more information regarding the rules that govern the Annex, and who has final say on the space. A blue print will also be useful to help with the planning of available space.

Annex to be the “first” step examine what the next step would be.

Susan mentioned revisiting the shared library / community center model. She has researched the models in Massachusetts and Townsend appears to be the closest one. It was decided that Susan and Theresa will make a visit to discuss with them the pros and cons of the model. From her research, Susan, has gathered that “shared” space seems to be the biggest concern.

There was no Public Comment.

Next meeting Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.