

Beacon Falls Community Media Center Building Committee
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2017
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Krenesky called the monthly meeting of the Beacon Falls Public Community Media Center Building Committee to order in the Connie Christensen Children's Room of the Beacon Falls Public Library at 7:04 p.m.

Members present: Mike Krenesky, Arlene Brumer, Martha Melville, Mary Ellen Fernandes, alternate

Members absent: Steve Ruhl, Doug Bousquet

Others present: Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Susan Cable, Advisor/Friends of Beacon Falls Library Liaison

2. Public Comment

Susan Cable said she had attended fundraising and EDC workshops on behalf of the Community Media Center Building Committee. She stressed that Beacon Falls needs a media center but believed it would be voted down because of the current economy and recommended working with the Economic Development Commission. She added that this committee should exercise what was voted on previously, to demolish the house at 35 Wolfe Avenue and not selling it as it would not make the town any money other than future tax revenue. She continued that the media center should include meeting rooms, a multi-purpose room, kitchen and stage for theater productions and to charge a fee for groups (excluding non-profits) to use it. Charge admission fees for performances that could help fund the building expenses.

S. Cable suggested a gofundme page to raise funds and spark interest in a building project. She added that installing steps on the property to go to the downtown area would benefit the businesses there, otherwise there would be no connection to the downtown. She recommended the building committee make a presentation about this project to the EDC and volunteered to help with it.

M. Krenesky commented that he had had a conversation with EDC about this idea and was met with negativity but will propose it again.

A. Brumer added that she had heard residents say they want the building demolished as it is blight and a safety concern.

M. Krenesky suggested keeping the building project under \$3 million to be more likely acceptable to town residents. S. Cable suggested a compromise on size but there's a need to look long term and think outside the box. She also stressed the importance of a media center to get a good town rating as done by Connecticut Magazine.

Chairman Krenesky asked three times if there was any other public comment and there was none at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 2017

The September 25, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to accept September 25, 2017 meeting minutes: Brumer/Krenesky; no discussion; all aye.

4. Correspondence

M. Krenesky reported that he received a phone call and follow up email from Cheryl Sacco of Paul Bailey Architect, LLC with information about the 2018 Connecticut Historic Preservation Matching Grant that has a deadline of 12/31/17. This is 1-for-1 funding to help sustain existing property or to save anything from a building for a future building project.

5. Old Business:

A. Report on Visit to Area Community/Media Centers

M. Krenesky and M. Melville visited the Shelton Recreation/Community Center on 10/14/17. This is a refurbished old school connected to their branch library which includes a swimming pool, basketball court, meeting rooms, industrial kitchen and craft rooms with sinks.

Discussion about what a Beacon Falls building project ought to include:

- meeting rooms to rent out to local businesses and professionals; EDC can promote
- basketball court that would double as a multi-purpose room to use as a polling place, town meetings and other large events, also could be rented space
- storage space for registrar of voters equipment
- full kitchen space which could be rented out and used in conjunction with a multi-purpose room for dining events

- possibly incorporate a Senior Center which may attract more users if a variety of activities were offered

S. Dowdell recommended committee members bring ideas for the features of and how to promote the building project to the January meeting. She noted that the State of CT awarded \$2.8 million in construction grants last year and that \$2.5 million in the grant program was not used and would rollover into the next year.

S. Dowdell noted that to be ADA compliant the minimum library space needed would be 7,500 square feet to house the current materials collection, program activities and allow 150 square feet per workstation per state guidelines

M. Krenesky suggested the committee visit the new Oxford Library which is 10,000 square feet and the Hamden Community Center. The committee needs to inquire if the Park & Rec Commission wants any office space in this building project.

S. Dowdell suggested the committee also visit the Edith Wheeler library in Monroe to get ideas.

6. **New Business**

A. 2018 Schedule of Meetings (4th Mondays) will be:

January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28 (no - Memorial Day)
June 25, July 23, August 27, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 24 (no - holiday)

B. December 2017 meeting cancelled

M.E. Fernandes suggested the chairman contact committee members regarding their meeting attendance.

7. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM: **Brumer/Krenesky**; all aye.

The next Community Media Center Building Committee regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Connie Christensen Children's Room of the Beacon Falls Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Melville
Community Media Center Building Committee

CC:
Board of Selectmen
Library Board
Park & Rec Commission