



Wednesday, March 28, 2018
Select Board Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria at 7:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held at 7:00 p.m. in the in Room 203, Town Hall, 100 Middle Street, Town of Hadley.

Present were: Molly Keegan, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Gerald Devine, Member, John Waskiewicz, Member

Also in attendance was a crowd of about 100 people. No one signed in; there is no official attendance list.

1. Call to Order

1.01 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Molly Keegan, Chair at 7 pm.

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Consent Agenda

Warrants	AP1837, AP1837S, PR1837, PR1838
Appointment to the Library Building Committee	Patrick Borrezo -Term
Chapter 90	All Town Roads - DPW

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: Chunglo

Second: Devine

Vote: 3-0-0

3. Senior Center/ American Legion

3.01 Senior Center and American Legion

Molly Keegan welcomes everyone and thanks the American Legion members for attending, and states the purpose of this meeting is to allow the Legion members to address their concerns over the Senior Center. She then informs every one the rules of engagement. All speakers are expected to speak at the microphones, if people speak to long we will put a time limit in place, and all people are expected to speak to each other respectfully. The Select Board is here to listen to concerns and we will answer questions where possible, but may have to address again later. She then presents the chronology of the senior center – listed on following page:



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CHRONOLOGY

SENIOR CENTER

- 1980's Various planning studies address the need to enhance senior services in Hadley.
- 1993 Community Action Statement on page 33: "Build a new [senior] center or purchase and renovate available building in Town."
- 1995 Community Action Statement Update. Select Board lists a new senior center as being among the 5 greatest needs of the Town. The updated Community Action Statement is produced and includes discussion of a new senior center.
- 1998 Hooker School converted to a senior center and other uses.
- 04.1.2004 A community meeting for the long-range plan included development of a plan for a senior center in the town center: "A cohesive town center with pedestrian friendly infrastructure, architectural synergy, and attractive facilities. A place where one can shop, participate in special town events, enjoy town facilities, or simply walk and relax."
- 10.2005 Master Plan is published (commissioned by the Planning Board). Enhancing the town center (with a senior center) is listed several times as a critical goal for preserving Hadley's character.
- 10.25. 2005 Town Meeting unanimously adopts the Master Plan.
- 09.06. 2013 The Facilities Plan for Municipal Buildings is published (commissioned by the Select Board). The Senior Center is reviewed, and its deficiencies are discussed (posted on Select Board website).
- 08.31.2015 Community survey for community input into the revised Master Plan (posted on Planning Board website)
- 10.19.2016 Public forum on 10/27/16 Special Town Meeting (televised). A petitioned article to raise money for a new senior center is included in the presentation.
- 10.27.2016 Special Town Meeting raising \$5,300,000 for a senior center (televised).



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- 01.10. 2017 Voters approved debt exclusion for the senior center.
05. 25. 2017 Public forum on proposed senior center with plans and a discussion of the proposed building. There is a series of questions and answers about the parking lot with the American Legion (televised).
- June 2017 Update of the Master Plan is published (Commissioned by the Planning Board). The Town Center (with a senior center) is identified as a critical part of the community, and strategies for strengthening the town center are presented.
- 09.28.2017 Public forum on 10/5/17 Special Town Meeting in which additional money for the senior center project is presented (televised)
- 10.05.2017 Special Town Meeting raised additional \$1,800,000 for the senior center (televised).
- 11.14.2017 Voters approved debt exclusion for the senior center.

Every Select Board agenda from 2017 to present includes an update on the senior center project. These meetings are televised and are open to the public.

The senior center project is managed by the Council on Aging with extensive involvement by the seniors.

Richard Witkas states that he is the commander of the Legion addressing the meeting of May 25th he asks which member of the American Legion were at the May 25 meeting.

Molly Keegan answers Tom Szarksy, Stanley Fill, it was a public forum.

Frank Zabawa asks if any of the Select Board questioned what the hardship would be for the American Legion with their activities, they host a monthly dinner and the parking lot is always full. When they begin this project are they just going to fence it off like last time and leave us with no place to park?

David Nixon responds that he is unsure of the sequence of construction and I think that we should acknowledge that I don't have the answer, and that we will find the answer.

Molly Keegan states that the concerns have been mentioned and then allows Tim Neyhart to speak.



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Tim Neyhart states that this was discussed with architect, himself and MBC and having the least amount of disruption for the American Legion. They discussed several possibilities to make sure that the site was useable for everybody and that there was adequate parking. We will have something, but it has not been finalized. All the construction will be on the north side of the town property and it will not go through the south side (Legion side).

Jane Nevinsmith states that we have put a condition down already in the contract, that any utilities that have to be laid in the 30 ft. easement area will have to be done and the parking lot has to be left in a usable condition at the end of every work day.

Joyce Chunglo states that we were all a little surprised by the change in the size of the Senior Center, but in the spirit of moving forward on the project we all need to work together. We will work together and we support the Legion.

Molly Keegan asks John Mieczkowski Sr. before he speaks, how he is speaking as a resident, as a planning board member?

John Mieczkowski, Sr. responds however you want to take it. Before coming to this meeting I watched the October meeting on you tube where the senior center building committee states that Donald Pipczynski stated at that meeting that the price was incorrect and then states that the committee picked a number of out the sky to get the 2/3 vote was wrong. I think it is wrong that you are telling these people that there will be no disruption, last time they lost thousands of dollars without that upper lot for construction. You don't people after the fact that you are just going to shut down their parking lot. When are you going to start being honest? And tell them the truth, at the meeting in October they did not have a budget so how could they give an estimate. I am also confused about why the safety plan of the building had to be moved.

Molly Keegan states that I allowed Mr. Mieczkowski to speak but in terms of the process that any project need to go for site plan approval in front of the planning board. The committees are put together so that they can give all of their needs to the OPM and architect who develop the size of the building. I will not discuss our volunteers who worked on these committees; I do not think that is fair to do to our town volunteers. However, there are people who feel that this plan does not take your concerns into account, so what I have heard from the Legion tonight is that they are concerned of the adequacy of the parking, the location of the parking and the interruption of your normal operations. We want to accommodate your needs but there are other needs in town as well. We have overwhelming support for the senior center, the library and the master plan of the town.

Gerald Devine states I want it memorialized that our decisions tonight for perpetuity, so it does not matter who is on the board. There will be a well-lit paved parking lot with a sidewalk.



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David Nixon states that there can be a memorandum of understanding with parking for the legion.

John Waskiewicz states that he does not know if the rest of the board apologized for the problem of the last Rt. 9 job, but I apologize on my behalf. We are going to go from 30-40 parking spots to over 100 and I think that it about as fair as we can by now if we let you use them whenever you want.

Betsey Daniel states that at the last time we were here Suzanne stated that she would make a calendar for various days. That does not work for us when we have a funeral or bikers against child abuse, and we need a lot spaced at various times. Everyone here in this room has used the legion. We have people with walkers, wheelchairs; it is not conducive for us to park up there. We have many people who have physical disabilities that need to be closer than that.

Molly Keegan states that she will add this to the list of concerns – the quality of the parking and the amount, and also the calendar/ schedule. Speaking of people with disabilities, as someone who has been in the legion, I do not think that the legion is exactly compliant for people with disabilities, there is no elevator. I think that allowing for the parking in the other lot, and people with disabilities would be able to have handicap parking in the Legion lot. If you have any additional concerns please submit them to David Nixon's office and he will get them to the committee.

John Mieczkowski, Sr., asks for clarification about the construction on the parking lot, it was not rented to the state but to a private contractor.

Molly Keegan states that ET&L was a contractor for the state on the project.

John Mieczkowski, Sr., asks why you didn't have them clean up their mess.

David Nixon states that the Rt. 9 was not our project and it was never our project. They were not our contractor. We did have lots of problems towards the end of the project and it was not a good relationship with them. We are exploring ways to fund parking.

Molly Keegan asks if the legion is interested in entering into an MOU.

Stanley Fill begins to read a letter that he prepared, expressing his concerns that someone will be injured with heavy equipment entering or exiting Rt. 9, and feels that the senior center should be smaller footprint with a 2nd floor and a building. He also expresses concerns that other committees will not have any space in the building, and that it is a community building that is being paid for with Hadley taxpayer's dollars. He then asks for the Select Board to replace Suzanne -----



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Molly Keegan interrupts Mr. Fill and states that he has crossed a line and we are not going to listen to such talk. I will address your concerns up to that point – concerns about heavy equipment, it is the purvey of the Select Board to decide building uses of town buildings, we will be addressing that shortly. There will be no personal comments allowed is there anything else you would like to say. The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be April 4th and we will address all of these concerns at that time. Thank you for coming out, we are all neighbors and we will continue to work together.

4. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Chunglo Second: Devine
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James

APPROVED