

# TOWN OF HARVARD

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## MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE



**Meeting Minutes** – 25 February 2011, 9:30-11:30, Town Hall Meeting Room

### Attendees

Peter Warren, Marie Sobalvarro, Pete Jackson, Lucy Wallace, Willie Wickman, Doug Coots, Maggie Green, Ron Ostberg (chair, secretary), Carlene Phillips (visitor)

1. Reviewed and critiqued February 17<sup>th</sup> presentation, sharing comments and questions heard since then as well. Major points included:
  - Confusion over pricing and relation of program needs to building upgrades;
  - Need to force issue of fate of Hildreth House should senior center go to old library;
  - Temporary use of old library as senior center is unsettling to seniors;
  - Presentation was too long, though information acknowledges as needed to understand complexity of task and our recommendation;
  - Organize future presentations around buildings (cover all facets of work from initial assessment to cost and phasing of renovations) as opposed to organizing around facets of work;
  - Bar graph showing “baseline” costs is confusing;
  - Need to emphasize work if for long term;
  - Cost of deferred maintenance/code upgrades would add ~\$153/yr in debt cost to average tax bill; cost of our recommended improvements would add ~\$223/yr (\$70 more);
  - Need greater emphasis on benefit of proposed improvements; there has been too much focus on costs.
2. Discussed presentation to be made to BOS on March 1. We have been allotted 1 hr; Peter suggested less than ½ that time be presentation, leaving more time for questions and answers for BOS and public. It was decided to focus presentation on request for ATM and coming year (schematic drawings), explaining this is next step in on-going process which will be open to more public input and Town Meeting approval.
3. Discussed LWV forum to be held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Should we only focus on Hildreth House – or all 3 buildings? We decided it would be useful for the LWV to present the history of town center and many decades of work/planning on it (master plans, Town Center Action Plan, etc) which led to creation of MBC. We then can speak to our recommendation going before ATM, followed by opportunities for questions and answers. Marie will take our suggested format to LWV.
4. Open 3's: 4 open houses of the 3 buildings have been scheduled for 3/12 (10-2), 3/16 (3-6), 3/20 (10-2) and 3/26 (10-2). Willie, Carlene and Lucy will organize. We need members of MBC present during the open houses to explain proposal/act of guides.
5. Public outreach: Marie agree to ask Bob Thurston if we could have one page in the FinCom book (warrant and financial report). Text must be finalized and submitted to Tim B. by 3/3 (goes to press on 3/4). Ron will do an initial draft. We decided against a townwide mailing.