

TOWN OF HARVARD

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE



Meeting Minutes – 21 March 2011, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendees

Pete Jackson, Willie Wickman, Lucy Wallace (secretary), Ron Ostberg (chair.), Marie Sobalvarro, Peter Warren (briefly)

1. Minutes of meetings from 3 March 2011 and 10 March 2011 were approved as amended.
2. At the request of the Friends of the Harvard COA, the text of its town-wide mailing was reviewed.
3. Presentation of Article 17 at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting was discussed. Peter will be making the motion; Ron will speak to it. Points to be made include:
 - We propose investigating 2 options for Town Hall: renovation and upgrade within existing footprint and renovation and upgrade with small addition. Article 18 only considers one option: within the footprint.
 - Clear that the constituents (seniors) want to stay at the Hildreth House and that site and building are superior to the Old Library. Article 18 appears to be combining senior center and community cultural center in the Old Library. We have tested putting the senior center in the Old Library and it is not a workable solution.
 - We are proposing using additional resources (beyond the taxpayer) to fund our recommendation. Baseline (code compliance and deferred maintenance, estimated to ~\$5 million) would be paid by the taxpayer. Outside sources besides private philanthropy include public and private grants, possible real estate development, etc.
 - If the Pilot Project succeeds, operational and maintenance costs of the Old Library would be assumed by the non-profit created to run the cultural center.
4. Next meetings: Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 AM and Tuesday, March 29 at 2 PM. Lucy will post both.