

MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

AUGUST 30, 2011

ATTENDEES:

- Kathy Batchelder, Jeanne LaBrie, Don MacIsaac, Mike Hartman
- Susan Leach, Frank Sterling, Norm Soney, Susan Peterson (Alyssa Dandrea-Ledger)

SUBJECT: Community Center

SIGNIFICANT POINTS/ISSUES:

- Proposed members of the committee are: Jeanne LaBrie, Susan Peterson, Matt Keenan, Helen Stone (new member), Sam LaFortune (new member), Owen Houghton, Norman Soney, Frank Sterling, Susan Leach, Chairman. Kyle Hotaling and Karen Morris are alternates.
- There will also be a "Friends of the Community Center" group who will be recruited by the Committee for assistance in fund raising and programs, but will have no voting rights.
- The committee plans not to go to the next Town Meeting to request funds for a building.
- The current committee is an AD HOC committee based on the documentation at the Town Offices. The Committee was requested to review/clarify its mission.
- An alternative to being a Town committee is to become an independent 501-C3 non-profit group. This alternative has the following issues:
 - The group would need to raise money to take over the land for the ball field. By law the Town is required to sell the land at market value (est. \$300K).
 - The group would also need to raise funds for the building, its maintenance and operation.
- The committee is collaborating with the Civic Center to apply for a grant (est. \$9000) whereby the Civic Center would provide to the Town at no cost the use of its facility for certain "low impact" programs.
- Any funds raised by the Community Center Committee are currently funneled through the Chamber of Commerce's Betterment Corporation which is its own 501-C3. This arrangement needs clarification.
- Can we transfer the existing funds (est. \$6000) from the Betterment Corp to the Town Trust Fund?
 - Can we administer the Community Center funding in a manner similar to the Library funding?
- The Community Center Committee considers itself different from the Rec Dept. in that the Rec Dept. runs large programs, primarily athletics; whereas the Community Center Committee would run more specialized, smaller group programs (e.g. photography, arts) for all ages.
- Another alternative to the Community Center Committee is to establish a Recreation Committee. There is a draft proposal for such a Rec Committee which needs further review.

- The Community Center Committee is requesting to sell raffle tickets for Celtics and Bruins tickets through October 30. Proceeds would go toward funding future program activities.
 - It appears that this would be only Town committee involved in fund raising.
 - If this committee were to have its own budget, the issue becomes how to expend funds from the Town budget.
 - The Rec Dept. Revolving Fund is “Fee for Service”. Can the Rec Dept. underwrite the program? What happens to the surplus funds?
- Given the above issues in 501-C3 status and the dispensing of funds, it was decided to postpone that decision to the next BOS meeting (9/12) so that further research could be done.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Don MacIsaac