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Building and Needs Assessment Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 21 Nov 2000

Present: George Moe (Chairman)

Drew Brown

David W. Rego

The Chairman called to meeting to order at 7 pm. He asked the meeting to observe a minute's silence in honor of the memory of Richard Butterfield.

Jacqueline Wildes, Director of the Council on Aging, Alan Hight, Fire Chief, and several members of the Friends of the Senior Center, were present.

The Committee discussed the new development that a grant of \$800,000 would be available from the State provided that the Town made a contribution of at least \$200,000. To qualify for the grant, the Town would have to submit a fully costed plan, complete with detailed architectural and engineering plans and other supporting documentation, by 31 August 2000. The Committee understood that the State allocation of funds for the construction of Senior Centers was not an annual allocation but one whose recurrence in some future year was unpredictable.

Preliminary planning funds presently available in the Town's budget amount to \$9690. ( Some funds have already been spent in evaluation of the building site for water and sewerage suitability ). Preparation of preliminary architectural and engineering plans, together with initial costing of the project, would require the hiring of an architectural firm and would cost more than now available in the budget. However, if action is delayed until the annual Town meeting when additional funds could be requested, the deadline for submission of the project could not be met.

Since the Friends of the Senior Center are willing to make available their own funds in order that an architectural firm might be hired promptly, the Committee discussed how this might be procedurally accomplished. It was decided to seek legal advice on whether the funds could be gifted to the Town now on the specific understanding that they be used to expedite the hiring of an architectural firm.

The Committee discussed several other aspects of the project on which action was required:

1. Completion of the land survey by the Town
2. Search of the title deed
3. Official approval from the National Parks Service for inclusion of Parks land in the zone of contribution for the water supply.
4. Ascertainment that proximity to power lines raises no health problems.

The Committee agreed to meet again on 29th November in order to draft a memo to the Board of Selectmen informing them of the plans and requesting a joint meeting in order to discuss outstanding issues.

The Committee discussed the present status of the Police/Fire Station project. The central obstacle at the moment lay with the absence of a final decision about the site or sites to be used. The Committee agreed to draft a memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the Town Administrator take up the issue of the alternative sites and make recommendations to the Board. The Committee will discuss a draft of the memo at its next meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 9.30pm.

Drew Brown,  
11/28/00