



TOWN OF GROTON

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Office of the:
Council on Aging
Kathy Shelp, Director

COA Feasibility Oversight Committee March 31, 2017 8am Town Hall

Members Present: Beverly Smith, Michelle Collette, Peter Cunningham, George Faircloth, John Amaral, Mihran Keoseian
Advisors present: Kathy Shelp, Mark Haddad
Absent: Gary Green

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05

John reviewed the recommendations by the Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee. He also reported that he and Mark attended the Finn Comm meeting and explained the process and the reasons for site elimination.

Library green area – deed restrictions

Boutwell and Florence Roach – not available

Prescott – did substantial work, more time and monies we put into this site than other properties but in the end it's not just what's in the building but the wetland impact on parking, wetland have encroached. Fire Chief has a strong preference for secondary access road. All reasons, entering and exiting 119, parking and wetland.

GELD – Concept plan showed building and parking would fit but the determination was made without considering wetlands or flood plain. This reduces the size of the property making it unsuitable.

George arrived 8:20

Michelle said she would vote no to acquire land. She disclosed an emotional connection to the land and would like it to remain farmland believe Agriculture is essential. She believe The current site is the most suitable site and the only argument against it is isolated, remote and she has been offended by some of the comments when referring to West Groton.

Mihran that there seems to be some confusion as to who makes the site recommendation. The ideal is that both committees would agree on a suitable site.

George asked if there was a price for the Lawrence Trust land – John reported there was a estimate given by a local realtor of \$250,000-\$350,000 per lot and there are three lots in the package.

Greg Sheldon, present in the audience from the Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee, spoke: if this committee choses to vote against the farmers row property it will torpedo any chance of passing the building of the senior center. He continued he was not against West Groton, we are all in this together, struggling against a town in fiscal crisis.

John Amaral replied he felt differently, first it is giving the taxpayer a choice and giving the power to the voter to choose and its OK to have the committee vote differently.

Peter made a motion for the committee to support Article #9 on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant, the motion was 2nd by Mihran Keoseian.

3 Yes – John, Mihran and Peter

2 No – George and Michelle

1 Abstain – Beverly

Peter made a motion for the committee to support Article #10 on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant, the motion was 2nd by George.

6 Yes

Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee

March 31, 2017

8:30am Town Hall

Members Present: John Amaral, Peter Cunningham, Greg Sheldon, Annika Nilsson Ripps, Mihran Keoseian

Others present: Mark Haddad, Kathy Shelp, Beverly Smith, Michelle Collette, George Faircloth

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07

Mike Bouchard came explained the laws for promotion of a ballot question as per the Office of Campaign and political Finance.

Peter suggested we establish a ballot committee- he will get the necessary paperwork.

The committee reviewed the Outreach Outline. It will be emailed to the committee and they are asked to fill in the dates they are available to be at the information sessions.

Annika will prepare the slides for presentation and a write up for the elimination of sites

Mark will prepare a financial explanation.

Kathy will prepare a narrative for need.

Greg will prepare a narrative for the metrics used in choosing a site.

Mark reported that he met with the Lawrence Trust to begin negotiations. Minuteman Appraisal will be doing appraisals on both the Farmers Row and current sites. He hopes to have the Farmers Row appraisal back by next Friday.

The committee discussed possibly making a recommendation on a financial plan for the Farmers Row site. The committee discussed and chose to simply list the facts as to the value of the additional lots and the current site.

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 27 meeting, 2nd by Mihran Keoseian.

Unanimously approved.

Mihran referred to the article in the current Groton Herald that the reader would be led to believe the committee made a recommendation simply because of time. He felt it is important for committee members to be consistent and diligent with conveying the message about the work we've done and that all the facts were in and a decision was based on the facts.

A motion was made by Mihran to close the meeting at 11:20, 2nd by George. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shelp, COA Director

