



TOWN OF GROTON

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Office of the:
Council on Aging
Kathy Shelp, Director

COA Building Committee May 31, 2017 8am Town Hall

Members Present: Michelle Collette, Peter Cunningham, George Faircloth, John Amaral, Mihran Keoseian, Gary Green (conference), Annika Nillson Ripps

Advisors present: Kathy Shelp, Mark Haddad
Guest: Tom Delany

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8am.

Mark Haddad directed the committee to organize.

A motion was made by Michelle Collette and 2nd by Mihran Keoseian to appoint Peter Cunningham as chair. Unanimous affirmative vote.

A motion was made by Peter Cunningham and 2nd by Michelle Collette to appoint John Amaral as vice-chair. Unanimous affirmative vote.

The committee discussed the 2nd floor emergency exit at the senior center and asked DPW to begin work to make it assessable.

Committee discussed the ballot results and the need to understand what happened. Peter said there was work underway to reach out to the community. When we focused on education for Town Meeting we were successful, suggestions for a stronger ballot campaign.

Suggestions of reasons for failure:

Group A – 55 plus not support \$5 million building

Group B – other political groups with competing agendas

Group C – those not understanding the vote – lack of numbers on the ballot question.

Don't want to underestimate the lack of understanding of the ballot

Thought they were voting for Prop 21/2

Unclear how much money we were asking for - \$400,000 or 5 Million

The committee discussed the need to continue to value engineer and bring the cost of the building down.

Need clear message it is not seniors vs schools.

Perception the senior center does not affect entire population.

The committee discussed the possibility to use free cash and monies from the old fire station and Tarbell sale for a design study and the ability to move forward w/out debt exclusions.

No other project in town used the ballot question for design money.

The committee would like to work with the Selectman and Finance Committee to return to Fall Town Meeting for design money.

(Gary Green left meeting at 8:50)

Mihran suggested we create an Action plan. He will work with George and Michelle to create an action plan and timeline.

(Annika left meeting at 9:05)

Michelle will spearhead the Building Commissioner and Accessibility Commission to review the current building . ADA will meet at the senior center on June 12, 4pm. Michelle will invite Ed Cataldo.

Strategy going forward;

- Fall Town Meeting for design

- Plan to create a Ballot Committee for Spring TM

- George will continue to crunch election results

- Friends of Groton Elders has established a Building/Facility Account

- Peter, Mihran and Kathy will continue to meet with the schools committee and new Superintendent

- Mihran, Michelle and George will work on an Action Plan.

Next meeting June 21st, 9am

A motion was made by Michelle and second by George to close the meeting at 9:2AM
Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shelp, COA Director