



TOWN OF GROTON

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Office of the:
Council on Aging
Kathy Shelp, Director

Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee November 14, 2016 4pm Town Manager's Office

Members Present: Peter Cunningham, Mihran Keoseian, John Amaral, Greg Sheldon, Annika Nilsson Ripps, Gary Green(via teleconference)
Others present: Mark Haddad, Kathy Shelp
Absent: Halsey Platt

Meeting was opened by Mark Haddad at 4:05pm

The agenda and committee charge was distributed.
Introductions were made.

Mark Haddad proposed the committee consider electing officers. There was discussion to postpone until all committee members were present. There was also discussion as to whether the committee needed a chair or could appoint a facilitator. The committee was open to the suggestion and will continue the discussion when all members are present.

The committee discussed the documents that should be used:

- COA Feasibility Report
- COA Long Term Plan
- COA Focus Group Report
- COA Needs Assessment report
- Community Center at Country Club conceptual drawing and available documents
- Prescott Report
- Bardmen Report
- Powerpoint used at Spring 2016 Town Meeting

Hard copies will be made available to those needing them otherwise they are available on-line.

The committee discussed bringing in a new architect for this project and as a peer review.

Comments:

John: There is a perception of the report vs the reality of the report. If we do it is not because the work is suspect, but because there is a perception of a bias.

Peter: The original reaction was to the draft report and not the final report. I feel the report dispels the biases. Refer to the vetting that was done when the architect was chosen. It may make political sense to look at another architect.

Mihran: How do we accomplish the charge given to us and a peer review for \$20,000?

Gary: Agree with Mihran. Finds it frustrating – the feasibility has not reviewed, discussed and ratified the final report. It would take too much time to get another architect up to speed and Reinhard has done good work. It is perception and we did to handle differently.

Peter: The first order of the next meeting is to present the report with the architect and have him respond to questions.

Greg: All valid points. Concerned the 7/27/ draft was on the fast track to failure. WE have been organized to review. No issue with the report, Reinhart is a reputable firm.

Annika: Cannot comment, has not reviewed the report.

John: The feasibility committee did not feel it was prudent to release the draft report, it was fueled by political reasons. To reference the draft report is not productive.

The committee agreed to stay with Reinhard and Associates to complete the study. Mark will invite them to the next meeting. The committee will submit questions they have about the report to Mark by 11/28, he will make a master list and submit to Reinhard. The meeting will be Friday, December 9, 8am in the Selectman's Room.

The committee adjourned at 5:08pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shelp, COA Director