



## TOWN OF GROTON

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Office of the:  
Council on Aging  
Kathy Shelp, Director

### **Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee March 27, 2017 3:00pm Town Hall**

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

Meeting was opened by John Amaral at 3:00pm

John reported that he had had separate calls regarding the siting of the center, there appears to be different opinions as to where we are as a committee. He reminded the committee, as we move forward, to be respectful and considerate to all members.

Russ Harris notified the chair he is taping the meeting.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that the paper had not reached out to the committee prior to the editorial that had recently been in the paper and that additional facts had been included. He felt the lack of facts undermined the work and research the committee had done on the Prescott site. Mr. Harris respectfully disagreed with the chair's expressed opinion.

The Chair reported on additional information he had obtained on the GELD site. He spoke to the previous engineer that had done work for GELD during their new build. It was her opinion (**John Complete**)

Mark reported that he and Kathy had met with Kevin Kelly and that Kevin stated they would ask \$200,000 - \$300,000 for the property and would not contribute to any mitigation/engineering costs. TOG would also be responsible to tear down the building.

Greg reminded the committee that GELD came up late in the process and on the surface it looked like an ideal setting for the center with community synergy it might attract new users so we need to take a hard look at the site. Follow the challenges, obstacles and costs of GELD. He feels we have not eliminated the potential of the GELD site. Mark reported the water table on that site is 18-24 inches and presents numerous obstacles.

John suggested fist to five to see if the committee is ready to move forward:\

5 were against going forward with GELD

1 Yes

1 undecided

4 were for moving forward with West Groton

2 No

1 undecided

The Chair asked if there were any motions on the floor:

Mihran made a motion that this committee postpone a recommendation for this Town Meeting and move forward for Fall town Meeting and a special election in November. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Cunningham. Discussion: Annika questioned the benefits of waiting. What do we need to know? Peter called for a vote on the motion, John reminded the committee we are very transparent and with the public process however there is a perception the committee is questioning the process.

The committee voted: 2 in favor (Cunningham, Keoseian)

3 no (Amaral, Green,

2 abstained (

Peter made a second motion recommending to move forward on the Farmers Row site for a senior center. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Annika.

Discussion: Greg asked can we chase down the numbers on GELD- we can research previous information that is already gathered. Also research land sale to cover costs.

Gary Green said we must consider the time we have for community outreach.

Vote: Yes

No (Green)

Peter continued his motion with a request of the town for, up to \$400,000 for building design costs on the Farmers Row site however, should the article fail for the land purchase, the monies will be used for the current site. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Halsey Platt.

Vote: 7 yes

0 no

Mark will write the summaries for these articles.

There was a motion to recess until 7pm by Annika and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg.

7:00pm

The committee reported to the BOS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Shelp, COA Director