

Council on Aging Senior Center Building Committee Public Input/Comment Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 10, 2016, 7:30pm

Greenfield Senior Center, 54 High Street, Greenfield MA

Building Committee members present: Jerry S. Moore, Chair, Jean Wall, Hope Macary, Dan Pallotta, OPM

Approximately 40 community members attended.

The meeting was not recorded.

Jerry provided a brief overview of the entire process from beginning to date: OPM selection, designer submissions and interviews, designer selection, building program development and translation to floor plan, discussions of the draft floor plans, tweaking of final floor plan, landscaping plan proposals and discussions, borings and pits taken in January to determine the nature/quality of the existing site.

Jerry turned the meeting over to Dan Pallotta to detail the progress of the project thus far (using three visuals: floor plan, site plan, and building program plan). He further explained the purpose and role of an Owner's Project Manager under MGL.

Jerry then asked for comment from those present (the following represents a sampling of comments presented at the meeting; spellings of names may not be accurate):

Patty Williams (Davis St abutter) in favor of the project, has concerns if another use is added it could be too much going on for that neighborhood. Stated concerns about poison ivy and a rusty fence along the north side of the site.

Penny Ricketts (TC) Strongly against a combined youth/teen center. "I will not vote for that." If people want youth/seniors programs they can happen now, we do not have to wait for a new building. Questioned whether the Davis Street site would be OK for a teen center?

Jim Meelator (sp?) local builder expressed support for consideration of energy efficiency, solar, if feasible within the budget

Jaimye Bartak (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission): supported multi-use, combining with youth as programming/space allows, green infrastructure. Stated concerns about the size of the proposed parking lot.

Tom Goodwin (COA) Stated that veterans need a meeting space with a kitchen. (they do meet at the current space now) but supports community use of the new building

Garth Shaneyfelt: Preference for urban density in the downtown area; "we do need a senior center."

Rita Cashette (sp?) new to Greenfield. Mom goes to the current senior center. Would like to see lots of natural light, and good quality artificial light as needed.

Isaac Mass (TC): repairs and updates to elementary schools are expensive. Supported consideration of both youth and veteran use of the building.

Mildred Grant (COA): seniors need adequate space to quilt (which they do not have now).

Jean Wall: (services on the new Library Building Committee) Stated that the current plans for the new library include intergenerational use with a youth component already planned.

Kate Wadleigh (SHINE volunteer, Greenfield COA): lives on School St, return of the community gardens once the project is completed is important.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.