

Joint Meeting of the Westborough Council on Aging, Recreation Commission and Select Board

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2024

6:37PM- 8:34PM

Council on Aging Members present: Chair Linda Birch, Vice Chair Guido Lonardo, Diane Collins, Nancy Fallon, Bill Lynch, John McCann, Darrell Simino, Robert Washburn, Paula Zecco

Recreation Commission Members present: Vice Chair Beth Ann Travis, Brian Kane, and Katie Welch

Select Board Members present: Chair Patrick Welch, Select Board Members Allen Edinberg, Sean Keogh and Shelby Marshall

Also present: Kristi Williams- Town Manager and Kimberly Foster- Assistant Town Manager, Jennifer Kirkland- Recreation Director, Alma Demanche-Council on Aging Executive Director.

Convene Meeting

- Chair Welch brought the joint meeting to order at 6:37PM.
- Chair Birch noticed the members Council on Aging that their meeting was in order.
- Vice Chair Beth Ann Travis noticed the members of the Recreation Commission that their meeting was in order.
- Chair Welch noticed the members of the Select Board that their meeting was in order.
- Chair Welch read the Governor's order related to the allowances of a public body to be able to hold a hybrid meeting into the record. He additionally stated that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded by WestboroughTV.
- Chair Welch further reviewed the scope and sequence of the evening's meeting.

Multi-Generational Community Center Design Alternative Presentation

- Joel Bargmann of BH+A, the architectural firm who has created the conceptual design shared a slide presentation that covered the following topics: photos of interior and exterior locations on site, the timeline of the outreach, age of survey respondents, participation in program of survey respondents, barriers for participation in programs at senior center and recreation departments, current participation rates, kinds of facilities/activities/components wanted by the respondents, a sample of comments submitted by the respondents, program favorability versus necessity, photographs of other communities center rooms/spaces, conceptual plans of the design, four design concepts, the criteria used to evaluate the concepts, the size of other senior and community centers in the area, project costs for the designs, next steps.

Council on Aging, Recreation Commission and Select Board Questions and Comments

Council on Aging Members asked questions and made comments on the following topics:

- Where the dedicated library area would be located, if at all?
- There are current members who would like to have a space to sit comfortably and read.
- Location of a technology room in the design.

- How will it be decided which option the Town will go with? Who will decide this?
- Are the plans available for review by the public?
- Will there be future presentations after the charrette?
- Reflections on the tours of other senior centers and community centers
- Encouraging for there to be café and other multipurpose room.
- Reasons why an elevator and staircase would be built together.
- Would a staircase also allow for natural light to enter through the roof?
- Will there be assurances for there to be dedicated senior only use time in the Recreation Department?
- Encouraging natural light for the first floor.
- How will noise be mitigated for activities like basketball court use?
- Future build outs would only be inside the building.
- What would be the alternative/nest steps if funding for the build out fails at Town Meeting?

Recreation Commission Members made the following comment:

- Supportive of the presentation and the project.

Select Board Members asked questions and made comments on the following topics:

- Ways the second floor can be scheduled to include different ages.
- Children typically are in school 9 months out of the year for a significant portion of the daytime hours.
- Clarification on the backside of the building and its future proposed uses.
- Future design plans to mitigate noise from gym/basketball court.
- Looking forward to the public charrette on September 9th
- Feedback has been integrated into the conceptual designs being presented.
- A multigenerational center allows for the ability to integrate other members of the community.
- Future buildout space allows for planning based on the community's needs and wants.
- Who is attending the sustainability charrettes and are they public meetings?
- There is strong interest in the community related to green initiatives and a dedicated conversation may need to take place when taking into consideration the preferred design.
- Decision not to have dedication cardio and weight room space.
- Weight room facilities in other parts of Town.
- There is 8000 square feet that can be build out in the future if public input desires that.
- Possible programming for weight training.
- Future conversations on who makes the final decision on design.
- Community lockers use and who could apply to use them.
- The Recreation Department is going to move in next month. If the plan gets voted down, the space is still going to get used.
- Possible actions moving forwards if the Town Meeting vote does not support funding the project.

- Importance of attending
- How could the stairwell/elevator space be utilized while in the middle of the walking track?
- Community locker rooms sizes and location.
- Access from veterans' offices to the kitchen space.
- Should the kitchen space be more centrally located?
- Request from community to have a quiet room/quiet space, nursing space for mothers, take into consideration to close off doors for health reasons.
- Kitchen design should include counter heights to be more inclusive of all physical abilities.

Public Questions and Comments

- Bob Kristian of Piccadilly Way was recognized to speak.
- Betty Kristian of Piccadilly Way was recognized to speak.
- Bill Linnane of Walker Meadow was recognized to speak.
- Peter Allen of Edward Dunn Way was recognized to speak.
- Doug Wales of Lenox Way was recognized to speak.

Adjournment

At 8:34PM, Select Board Member Edinberg moved to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board. Select Board Member Marshall seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-0, motion passed.

At 8:34PM Vice Chair Lonardo moved to adjourn the meeting of the Council on Aging. Member McCann seconded the motion. Vote: 9-0-0, motion passed.

At 8:34 PM Vice Chair Travis moved to adjourn the meeting of the Recreation Commission. Member Welch seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0-0, motion passed.

Presentations and Documents

- Bargmann, J. Slide presentation: Multigenerational Center Conceptual design

Submitted with respect by Cela Dorr