

**SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2020**

The meeting of the Senior Center Building Feasibility Committee was called to order on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by Dennis Lopata.

In attendance: Paula Dubord, George Fontaine, Ken Furst, Karl Jurgen, Jason Kahn, Dennis Lopata, Ted Sowa, Diane Weston. Excused: Linda Cooper. There were 7 guests, including volunteers filming for public access.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Dennis started a discussion on why the Feasibility Committee eliminated Memorial School from potential sites. Jay states it would be a poor use of funds, due to the size and age of the building. Ted stated it is a large risk to retrofit a 70 year old building and operating costs would be expected to be higher than a new energy efficient building. Ken stated that he wants the committee to be fully confident on the costs of Memorial School to assure that we can answer questions that may come up in the meetings we have with the community. Diane stated residents vote with their pocketbooks and Memorial would be too expensive. Paula stated Lance Trevallion, Building Inspector, stated three areas that would be expensive would be HVAC, seismic upgrades and sprinkler system. She gathered information on escalating construction costs over the last 20 years on nonresidential buildings, in reference to Mile Tree and Stony Hill Schools renovations in 1990's. The Building Committee agreed and will move forward with their charge from the BOS.

Paula gave a brief statement from Tom Sullivan, Assistant Town Administrator, Collector/Treasurer. Tom believes a \$9.6 million project can be funded without a debt exclusion, which means the project would only need to be approved at town meeting and not in the ballot box. Tom will attend the next meeting to explain in detail his plan.

Dennis stated that the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors have asked to speak at the next meeting to inform the committee of their plan to help educate the community.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19th at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Paula S. Dubord