

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2020

The meeting of the Senior Center Building Feasibility Committee was called to order on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by Dennis Lopata.

In attendance: Paula Dubord, George Fontaine, Karl Jurgen, Jason Kahn, Dennis Lopata, Ted Sowa, Diane Weston. Excused: Linda Cooper, Ken Furst. There were 8 guests, including volunteers filming for public access.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Dennis introduced Matt Villamaino, president of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Matt made a presentation to the committee on how the Friends plan on educating the residents through series of letters to the editor of the Wilbraham Hampden Times, brochures, flyers, standouts, lawn signs, newspaper ad campaign. He spoke on how the Friends are looking to provide transportation to residents to town meeting, and meeting with various community groups to help address the importance of a new senior center. Matt stated that the Friends will seek approval from the Building Committee on materials prior to distribution, to ensure correct information is given. The Friends would like the renderings, pictures, etc, from John Catlin to insert in their materials. Ted stated that once the Building Committee has approved them, they will be made available to the Friends.

Jay asked if the Friends had a website or planned to create one, as he believed this is a great idea. Matt responded he did not plan on creating one, instead using Facebook.

Dennis spoke on what is expected from John Catlin in the remaining phases of our present contract with him, specifically the "Implantation Plan".

Tom Sullivan gave an overview of his financial plan to fund this project without raising taxes. He explained the difference in a 15 year bond and a 20 year bond, saving the town over \$500,000 with a 15 year bond. He stated the Building Committee would need to meet with the Capital Planning Committee, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd at 6 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Paula S. Dubord