

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 13, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:** Tony Tarnowski, K, Majorie Mlodzinski, Ron Silberman, Sean Nadeau, Joe Ruiz, Marilynn Turner, Kevin Hastings

**Alternates:** Geraldine Transue, Madelyn Starkey

**Members Absent:** None

**Alternates:** None

**Others Present:** BOS Liaison Rosemary Coyle; Director of Senior Services Patty Watts;  
Silver/Petrucelli: David Stein

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tarnowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Seating of Alternate members:** None
3. **Amendments to the Agenda:** None
4. **Citizens Comments:** Cathy Russi thanked the committee for addressing her comments.
5. **Approval of Minutes of September 22 2020:** S. Nadeau motioned to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting, seconded by M. Mlodzinski. All members voted in favor with K. Hastings abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**
6. **Correspondence:** Attached
7. **Approval of Invoices:**
  - a. Silver Petrucelli Invoice: S. Nadeau motioned to approve Silver / Petrucelli invoice # 20-2257 in the amount of \$7,048.65 dated 10/1/2020, seconded by J. Ruiz. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
8. **Report of Architect and possible action:**
  - a. **Review of Estimate:** Members looked at alternatives to the outside design. T. Tarnowski and J. Ruiz went through the estimate and provided comments to Silver Petrucelli. Silver Petrucelli continues to work on an estimate incorporating the feedback provided. An all-inclusive cost is needed for BOS, BOF, and the finance department. J. Ruiz expressed concern with framing using wood due to the increased cost of lumber. There were no objectives to using metal instead. A 2.3% escalation cost is currently included. Silver Petrucelli will have a firmer number by next week.
9. **Owner's Representative Recommendation Update:**
  - a. **RFQ/RFP Update:** The RFQ/RFP is out. Amendments have been put on the Town website.
  - b. **Bid Opening - October 19, 2:05 - Selectman's Office**
  - c. **Evaluation Sheets:** Evaluation sheets based on criteria found in the RFQ will be used. Additional criteria can be added. Feedback on evaluation criteria should be sent to T. Tarnowski.
  - d. **Possible Special Meetings for Interviews - Week of 10/18:** Bids will be discussed at the next meeting on October 27th with the possibility of interviews the first week in November.

RECEIVED  
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2020 OCT 13 PM 4:30  
T. Tarnowski

**10. Overall Project Schedule review:** K. Hasting will revise the schedule to coincide with bid opening and interviews.

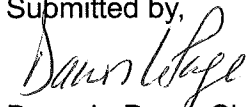
**11. Open Items:**

a. **Other funding sources - Community Block Grant:** No update

**12. Citizens Comments:** None

**13. Adjournment:** J. Ruiz motioned to adjourn. Vote was unanimously approved. Chairman Tarnowski adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn LePage".

Dawn LePage, Clerk

**Attachement:**

Cathy Russi email

From: Catherine Russi <crussi45@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Senior Center Building Committee <seniorcenterbuildingcommittee@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Suggestions

Thank you for allowing me to participating in the Colchester Senior Center building committee zoom meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>. A big thank goes out to all the members of the committee. It's been a longtime coming. I have participated in a couple of build committees in the past and would like to offer the suggestions. Perhaps many of the items have been addressed but I feel that the more input the better.

- The building should have a generator: with the changing weather patters, cell-phones could be charged, the facility could be utilized as a warming or cooling station and food stored in the kitchen would be saved.
- Ample parking is imperative along with several spaces for the handicapped people holding a permit. Keep in mind if you hope to rent the facility you need to have space for those attending the function.
- Storage: Since most rooms have flexible usage, there should be storage in each room.
- Each small room should have a sink with running water. Water may be needed for a program being offered, provide for hand hygiene or just an area for coffee to be provided.
- Charging stations for those people attending in battery operated equipment.
- Ample sitting in the reception area for people to wait for transportation.
- Friendly reception entrance while addressing the need for safety including cameras.
- Landscaping was mention at the meeting and I presume the committee is looking for attractive landscaping with ease of maintaining. The Colchester Garden Club has several Master Gardeners. Perhaps the building committee could invite members to give their assistance, special thoughts and general guidance. Katherine Kosibo would be a good contact.
- Talking to several Senior Centers Directors through the years, they encourage electric door dividers for the multi-purpose rooms and sound barriers.
- Install a greenhouse window in a room with southern exposure. Perhaps the Colchester Garden Club could arrange for a grant for that project. Outdoor garden space is provided at some centers for those people who need space for outdoor gardens.
- Offer a small café' area for morning coffee, socialization, read the morning paper or catching up on emails/text.
- Offer private areas for gathering information from people needing assistance with energy assistance, renters' rebates, benefit check-up, assistance with filing income tax, assisting people with various insurance issues (the CHOICE program).
- Eugene Theroux from elderly nutrition would been contacted be a good resource for kitchen suggesting. Marylouise Underwood Chief Operations Officer with T.V.C.C.A has had 32 years of experience working with senior centers and their kitchen needs.
- I am sure there will be a serving area from the kitchen to the main dining area. Make sure there is a divider that can be closed after serving if there is a speaker the noise for the kitchen can be cutoff.
- Regarding grants: Senior Resource offers no grants for building at this time. Talking with Joan Wessel and Kathy Chase there hasn't been small city grants for building for some time. At any rate those grants have restrictions. Most of the rules the center presently has but two areas that one would find restrictive are: the area must be utilized for those 60 years of age and over, the area must be used for a least 10 years for those seniors only.
- Sign for the building should be consistent with other town properties.

For years I have been an advocate for positive aging. I look forward to living near my family while being independent and trying to answer my own needs. I look at a Senior Center being the focal point for senior services. Centers can offer exceptional amenities free or at limited cost while being a ONE STOP SHOPPING facility to answer many needs. One never knows when one would need to utilize one of the following programs: benefit check-ups, energy assistance, renters rebates, health care services, information regarding the CHOICES program, nutrition, fitness, transportation, line-long learning programs, social and recreational programs, memory and pet therapy programs to name some of the things I think about.

We should keep in mind the cost to provide the many services. The one way we can look forward to doing that is to have staff with multiple skills and by promoting community partnerships, Volunteers could lead or support many programs. Colchester has an overwhelming population with so many diverse talents. Offering intergenerational programs could also help provide supportive services. Young people can assist in teaching the seniors the new technical pieces of equipment while senior can offer dialogues on their interesting life.

Once again, thanks to the building committee for offering all their talents to make the community a positive place to age in place. I am a register voter in the Town of Colchester and if I can help in any way, please contact me.

ENJOY LIFE!

Cathy Russi