

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Tony Tarnowski, Marilynn Turner, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Sean Nadeau, Kevin Hastings, Ron Silberman

Alternates in Attendance: Geraldine Transue, Madelyn Starkey

Members Absent: Joe Ruiz

Alternates Absent: None

Others Present: CSG: Mark Garilli, Board of Selectman Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Senior Center Director Patty Watts

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TOWN CLERK

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 Agenda:** None
4. **Citizens Comments:** Chairman Tarnowski requested a cap of three minutes for any one citizen's comments. No citizen comments.
5. **Approval of minutes of October 12, 2021:** M. Mlodzinski motioned to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021 amending to add Mary Bylone and Patty Watts to Others Present, seconded by Marilynn Turner. All members voted in favor (6-0) via roll call. **MOTION CARRIED**
6. **Correspondence:**
 - a. BOS is addressing a FOI Complaint against SCBC Committee meetings.
 - b. Discussion with State Elections Enforcement Commission: Chairman Tarnowski reviewed a number of activities to be aware of as we are in the "Pending Period". This included the Senior Center newsletter; poster boards were removed in the Town Hall and Senior Center; rides to polls for senior citizens; and letter writing requirements.
 - c. Ron Silberman motioned that the Senior Center Building Committee request the Board of Selectmen to pursue the 369B process to allow informational material for the referendum. Sean Nadeau seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (6-0) via roll call. **MOTION CARRIED**
7. **Approval of Invoices:** None
8. **Meetings with Boards of Finance and Selectman:** The results of meetings in October 13th and 21st were as follows; BOF and BOS Approve Resolution on October 13, 2021 to send to Town Meeting on November 4, 2021 at 6:30 at WJJMS Cafeteria to Adjourn to Referendum on November 16, 2021. Chairman Tarnowski gave a report of October 21, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding FOI complaint.
9. **Referendum Schedule:** Town Meeting to Adjourn to referendum on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at William J. Johnson Café. Referendum date is Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Chairman Tarnowski made a statement that the Town Meeting has the means to adjourn to go to Referendum or has the ability to not pass to Referendum.
10. **Public Information Sub-committee Report**
 - a. **Presentation schedule:** All presentations are on hold at this point
11. **Architects and Owner's Representative Updates:** No updates at this time.
12. **Open items**
 - a. **Other Funding Sources – State Bonding Commission:** State Bonding Commission meeting cancelled for October 29, 2021. Next scheduled meeting is in December.
 - b. **ARPA Funds:** M. Mlodzinski reviewed her efforts and participation in a committee having the ability to help our project financially. Chairman Tarnowski will issue documents so the Committee can review to discuss at the next meeting.

13. Citizens Comments: D. Bouchard-Sanchez commented on FOI Complaint in regards to SCBC meetings not in line with expectations of recording meetings.

14. Adjournment: Sean Nadeau motioned to adjourn. Chairman Tarnowski adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kevin Hastings, SCBC Member

Attachments:

Communication Email

SEEC Questions

SEEC QUESTIONS

1. Can the Senior Center Building Committee still make informational presentations to the public during the "Quiet Period"? – Yes, as long as we do not advocate and provide only informational information. Note: It is no longer called the quiet period. It is now called the "pending" period.
2. What can the Building Committee do and not do?
 - a. Can we distribute informational flyers to the community?
 - i. If so, what can be included in the flyers:
 1. Date, time and place of referendum – Yes, this is always allowable.
 2. Cost of project – Subject to review
 3. Approximate cost to tax payers – Subject to review
 4. Layout and floor plan of building – Subject to review
 5. Architects renderings of building – Subject to review
 6. Location of building – Subject to reviewItems noted as Subject to Review means that these would have to be presented and then a decision would be made as to whether or not they were advocating or not. Most of the items would not be advocating, but depending on how they were presented it could be interpreted as being advocating.
3. If the referendum is November 16th, what are the requirements and constraints of the "Quiet Period"? What exactly is allowed and not allowed during the quiet period. – Josh was not sure what constitutes the Pending Period for Colchester. Each town has their own rules and I believe we are now in that period based on a November 16th referendum date. As we said previously, we can inform but not advocate and we cannot use any town funds or anything funded by the town in our presentations including video equipment, screens, flyers, copy machines, etc.
4. Can placards that say Vote Yes be placed at polling places within 75 feet of polling locations? Can signs be placed for public viewing at other locations in Town (i.e., town green, library, etc.) – Yes as long as they are not closer than 75'. If there was a local ordinance for not allowing signs on the Town Green or other properties that would supersede the state regulation. Also, if a sign is smaller than 4' x 8' it does not have to have a notice of who sponsored the sign.
5. Can residents and/or community members place 'letters to the editor' in newspapers or other periodicals? If so, can a Building Committee member write a letter as an individual or citizen and not a member of the Building Committee? – Yes. It is your first amendment right.
6. What is allowed on the Town Web Site? There was a PowerPoint presentation with general information, brief history, cost information, dates and information provided by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance are on the web site. Once the Board of Selectmen approved the resolution to go to the Town Meeting and Referendum, the web site was taken down. Can this be put back up again on the town web site? – This cannot be put back up. The only information that can appear on the Town Web Site regarding the referendum is date, time and place or other information that is not advocating like where someone can obtain an absentee ballot.
7. Can a Political Action Committee mail out information and advocate for the Center? If so, what can and cannot be said? What, if any, are there any time constraints to their actions? Can members of the Building Committee be also a member of a PAC? – A PAC can be formed and members of the Building Committee can serve on a PAC. There are no time constraints to their actions. They can send out information and make phone calls even on the day of the referendum.
8. Our understanding is "Town Resources" cannot be used during the quiet period to promote the project. Would that just be monetary resources or would also limit us to use like a video screen and projector the town owns or other like property? – Town Resources is defined as anything that was purchased with town funds, not just monetary considerations.



Dawn LePage <dlepage@colchesterct.org>

Posterboards and Presentations

1 message

Anthony Tarnowski <tar51214@att.net>

Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 9:56 AM

To: Mary Bylone <mbylone@colchesterct.gov>, Rosemary Coyle <rcoyale@colchesterct.gov>, Patty Watts <seniorcitizens@colchesterct.gov>, Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Dawn LePage <dlepage@colchesterct.org>, Marjorie Mlodzinski <msrmlodzinski@gmail.com>, Marilynn Turner <msturner@snet.net>, Kevin Hastings <kevin-hastings@comcast.net>, First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>, Mark Garilli <markg@csgroup-llc.com>, Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>, Joe Ruiz <jruiz@zlotnickconstruction.com>, Geraldine Transue <gkwer1945@gmail.com>, Madelyn Starkey <madelynstarkey@comcast.net>, Ron Silberman <ron@aslockco.com>, Sean Nadeau <nadeaus@gmail.com>, David Stein <dstein@silverpetrucelli.com>, Mark Garilli <markg@csgroup-llc.com>

All:

I just finished a phone conversation with Josh Foley from the State Elections Enforcement Commission. We discussed the following:

- Poster boards in the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center - Josh was unable to open the photos I sent him but I described what the poster boards contained. He said they sounded to be very generic and did not advocate. But, in order to keep them posted we would have to follow the 369-B regulations governing referendums. That means we would have to submit the information to the Town Attorney for review. If they do not have an issue it then has to go to the Board of Selectmen for approval. The same process would go for any of our presentation information or any flyers we as a Committee sends out. Also, none of these could be paid with town funds since the meeting of October 13th when the Boards approved the resolution to go to referendum. Even though our poster boards and bulletins were paid with approved town funds, they can be displayed because the funds were approved and spent before the Oct. 13th meeting. With that being said, and to err on the side of caution, I am going to ask Heide and Patty to take down the poster boards that are on display. If the selectmen want to go through the 369-B process and approve them, then we can put them back up.
- The monthly newsletter that Patty sends out to the seniors which she asked if the information she was including about the dates and times of the Town Meeting and referendum is not a problem. He does not see anything that can be construed as being of an advocacy nature. As long as it remains factual it is fine.
- Rides to polls for seniors - Because the town has provided this service in the past there is no issue with providing rides for seniors for the referendum. I would caution the drivers or anyone else when giving the rides to the seniors to be careful during the drive to the polls they do not advocate for or against the question on the ballot that day.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me. As always, please do not reply "all" to this e-mail.

Thank you.