

**Town of Southborough, MA
Community Center Exploration Committee**

**Thursday, February 16, 2023
7:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

1 **Members Present:**

- 2 Jason Malinowski- Capital Planning Committee/Capital Improvement and Planning Committee
3 Jen Hansen- Recreation Commission Member
4 Bill Harrington- Council on Aging Member
5 Janet Maney- Library Board Trustee
6 Susan Heilman- Resident at Large- Museum of Science
7 Tim Fling- Resident at Large- on Noise Bylaw committee
8

9 **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- 10 Tim Davis- Recreation Director
11 Ryan Donovan (joined at 7:20pm)- Library Director
12

13 **Absent:**

- 14 Pamela Lefrancois (Ex Officio) – Council on Aging Director
15 Nikki Mauro – Resident at Large
16

17 I. Call Meeting to Order

18 Jason Malinowski called the Community Center Exploration Committee meeting to
19 order at 7:09 pm

- 20 - Introductions were done since this was the first meeting
21

22 II. Brief overview of process that led to Committee formation

- 23 - Early 2022, Capital Planning Committee did a space needs study for all town
24 departments except for Police and Fire, since they had a new building. Options
25 may also include the Woodward School.
26 - There have been a number of capital requests for Neary School, the senior center,
27 the library and someday a community center/rec center. Therefore, capital
28 planning thought that members of each of those groups along with at large
29 members should meet and explore potential joint options.
30 - Neary has recently received feasibility funding at last year's town meeting and
31 accepted into state's competitive grant program to receive matching funds for any
32 renovations. This may also include Finn and Woodward. There is a Neary School
33 Building Committee. Neary cannot be closed and filtered into Finn and
34 Woodward based on current enrollment.
35 - Same study showed that the senior population is increasing exponentially in
36 Southborough.
37 - This committee will directly impact the Neary SBC. If the state sees a unified
38 community plan, we are more likely to get the matching state funds.

- 39 - Jen asked about the timeline for Neary and is it intertwined with this committee?
40 Yes, they need to be happening at the same time.
41 - The Library will be entering a grant process soon as well for improvements.
42 Library trustees will decide on this soon for a FY24 application, with funds for
43 FY27.
44 - Susan asked- will our committee timeline be extended? Possibly.
45 - We have funding through the CIPC to hire professionals/architects to do studies.
46 The architects from the space need study will continue
47 - May explore a public-private partnership.
48 - The Library building will not go away, we may explore options for what it is used
49 for (if not the library)
50 - Tim D asked- Are we including Southborough Youth and Family Services? We
51 will keep them in the loop and they can join if they want.
52 - Tim D asked- Will the South Union building be sold? The previous RFP received
53 only one offer and that was then withdrawn. It may still be sold in the future.
54

55 III. Organization of the Committee – Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk
56 Janet Maney nominated, Tim F seconded, and it was voted 5-0-1 by roll call, “For
57 Jason Malinowski to be appointed chair”

58 Roll Call

59 For: Bill, Janet, Tim F, Susan, Jen

60 Opposed: none

61 Abstained: Jason
62

63 Jason nominated, Janet seconded, and it was voted 6-0-0 by roll call, “For Tim Fling
64 to be appointed vice-chair”

65 Roll Call

66 For: Bill, Janet, Tim F, Susan, Jen, Jason

67 Opposed: none

68 Abstained: none
69

70 Jason nominated, Tim F seconded, and it was voted 6-0-0 by roll call, “For Susan
71 Heilman to be appointed Clerk”

72 Roll Call

73 For: Bill, Janet, Tim F, Susan, Jen, Jason

74 Opposed: none

75 Abstained: none
76

77 IV. Review of draft charge and potential recommended edits for Select Board
78 consideration

79 - Original charge: [https://www.southbroughtown.com/community-center-
80 exploratory-committee](https://www.southbroughtown.com/community-center-exploratory-committee)

81 - Ask select board to alter our charge- we will provide an updated presentation of
82 where we are headed by June 2023, including all updated information from
83 previous studies, current projects in the works, new estimates.
84

- 85 V. Action Items
86 - We will plan a tour of Woodward
87 - Contact Ryan for a tour of Library
88 - Contact Bill for tour of Senior Center
89 - Contact Tim D for tour of Recreation Center
90 - Tim F will contact selectboard to learn more about private-public partnership
91 - Jason will provide information on the previous study
92 - Recreation, Library and COA will present feedback from plans from January
93 2022 study at next meeting
94 - Susan will provide minutes
95
96 VI. Public Comment
97 - None
98
99 VII. Other business that may properly come before the Committee
100 - None
101
102 VIII. Adjournment
103 Tim made a motion to Adjourn at 8:13 pm, Bill seconded. It was voted 6-0-0 by roll
104 call to adjourn.
105 Roll Call
106 For: Bill, Janet, Tim F, Susan, Jen, Jason
107 Opposed: none
108 Abstained: none