

Farley Building Committee
Minutes: February 7, 2024 Meeting

Members present: David Sullivan, Chair, Jeanne Smith Cripps, Mike Leavitt, Karla Vogel, Liz Barbour, Kimber Harmon, Michael Bates, Doug Cleveland.

Minutes of Jan. 24th were approved as submitted.

Agenda items:

1: Warrant Article recap after public meeting with BudCom on 2/6.

Dave, Kimber, and Liz presented defense of the Warrant Article #4 at the public BudCom meeting, Feb. 6th. The material was positively received by the Budget committee on a vote of full support. The Select Board will be meeting on Feb. 12 and vote to accept the article as stated. Congratulations to Dave for organizing the PowerPoint screens that gave salient reasons to support the next phase of the building.

There was a discussion regarding the comment from the audience to tear down the building and erect a new structure for a community center. Karla questioned if this was even a possible consideration given the building is part of the historic district and has been designated as a "Seven to Save" structure.

2. Handout to promote the Warrant Article

We learned that our handout materials cannot have the wording to vote yes or no on a Warrant article. The handout is being redone to remove that language and indicate the warrant article is recommended by a number of committees in town.

3. Method to accept financial support for the Community Center

Dave reviewed the method to get tax deductible contributions to the Community Center. Checks can be made out to "Farley Building Community Center" and mailed to the town hall address. Bob Ledbetter (who was involved in the Lawrence Barn fund raising) will collect checks at the town hall, register the data and then submit checks to Finance Director to be deposited in a account for the Community Center. This procedure can be immediately implemented and citizens should be assured this is a tax-deductible contribution.

4. There was discussion on reaching out to local businesses to review the documents from the warrant article package and identify people who are interested in helping with the building rehabilitation. While specific work will need to be a bid process, there is also great interest in having local citizens contributing to the work of the building.

5. Discussion on use of social media to locate alumni of the Farley school. They could be instrumental in promoting support for the warrant article and steps forward in raising monies. Karla will connect our Facebook Page with "You Know You're from Hollis ..." to help spread the word. In the meantime, a list of alumni can be an ongoing process.

6. Liz Barbour reviewed progress on the web site. Peter Jones will submit the server fee to Dave for reimbursement. It is also possible to add a direct email link through the server for \$5/month. This would keep all emails directed to the Farley project in one location rather than relying on a Gmail account shared by others. Liz is developing much of the content that will be displayed on the web site. She is eager to get a virtual look of the classroom space to people can imagine how the space might appear in a final form.

Karla suggested a “web form” as a method to collect specific material from the community. This discussion will continue.

7. Dave and a group from the Historical Society will visit the Stevens-Buswell Community Center in Bedford.

8. Discussion on information forums before the Town Meeting in March. Space was confirmed March 4th from 2 - 4, where we will host an information session about the building and how the community will benefit. There is also the possibility of having a forum at the Town Hall ahead of Town Meeting with a direct invitation to the Cucumbers Facebook Group.

Next meeting: Feb. 22, at 4:00

Recorded and submitted by:

Karla Vogel