

Minutes of Ad-Hoc Community Center Committee  
September 12, 2014, 6 pm  
Suffield Town Hall Lower Conference Room

Present:

Leeayn Burke, Beth Chafetz, Krystal Holmes, Patrick McMahon, Joe Sangiovanni, Michael Stevens.  
Michael Stevens called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

No Public Comment Received. In addition no correspondence received.

Discussed Suffield on the Green

The group had a booth at Suffield on the Green to show current concepts and spread awareness about the project. The following are some general comments and feelings:

- Mostly positive feedback.
- Most people, especially families, like the idea of a full size gym addition because they feel there is a lack of gym space in town.
- Many people want the building maintained and believe a community center is an appropriate use.
- People do want to know what the financial impact will be per household.
- People like the ability to expand on the site, especially for a pool.
- Many people left email addresses to stay updated on what's happening with the proposal.
- Received the following suggestions in the suggestion box:
  - Can you phase the project?
  - Conduct a persuasive essay contest for Middle School students
  - Look into having a college use the facility for a satellite office
  - Add retail space to the facility

Krystal will send some emails to neighboring colleges (Asnuntuck, Westfield etc.) to see if there is a need or desire to utilize space in the evenings for programs.

Group discussed that the gym addition makes the project most worthwhile and useful and that a request for funds and the concept should include the gym addition.

Once again discussed the concept of new construction. Typically new construction is double the price per square foot to renovate. New construction would be more expensive. The architect confirmed the ability to knock down walls and do the addition so the current building can be well utilized and suit the needs of a community center.

The operational budget from Parks and Rec consultant should be ready in two weeks. The group needs this piece of information before presenting to the Board of Finance.

Discussed the need to organize private funding and grants for the proposal. The formation of a non-profit would allow for tax deductions and company matching opportunities. To be discussed further in the future.

Discussed inviting town financial advisor to next meeting to discuss bonding options and the impact per household.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Next Meeting is Monday, September 29, 2014 at 7 pm, Suffield Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

Minutes prepared by Krystal Holmes