

Topsham Community Center Committee

Minutes May 6th, 2024, Time: 5:15 PM

1. Call to order. Time: **5:19PM**

Members: Leslie Byrne, Steve Kessler, Lynn Sirois, Alison Cary-Blais, Kathy Hunter, Kim Pride, Heather Rogers

Staff: Pam LeDuc and Mark Waltz

Guests present (Invitation to guests to introduce):

Brian Robertson, Mark Lee, Joe Freely

2. Any changes to this agenda? No changes to this agenda

3. TCCC Feasibility Survey Discussion:

1. Results from Survey

About 900 in total respond, 70% support, 7% No, I don't Support, 20% it depends and 3% I don't know. Overall, fair amount of support. With cost associated: Largest areas of interest are walking track, meeting rooms, multipurpose activity room. With the potential cost associated, lower scores than expected for competition size pool, industrial size kitchen or maker space.

Other Notes from Reviewing Survey Results:

- Lots of positive notes. Some things stood out. Biggest note from responses NOT interested in a Community Center - was that they don't want taxes to go up more than they need to.
- Outside planning – a common theme within the comments was for outside areas (fields, splash pads, playground etc.). Outside more possibility of grant money, with water, land conservation opportunities down the road.
- Review about some specific items i.e. Competition Pool vs recreation pool. Commercial grade kitchen vs community kitchen. A survey responder could select both versions when submitting.
- One comment from recent select board meeting– from town resident was concerned this survey wasn't available to all being as it was online. Printed options were available at Primary and at Town Hall – perhaps better communication about other options available if there are future surveys.

Discussion re: What is the probability that this survey represents the community? As a group, we determined the results tie in with the survey completed previously. Brian R indicated (as survey results go) we have a varied level of responses- not all yes/ in agreement. We have a high number of positive, some negative and a high number of "it depends" – which shows that the person needs more information to make that decision.

Overall, the survey did what we expected that shows support for the general concept of building a community center and the comments indicate a need for something.

The mission of the Community Center Committee is to understand the desires and needs of the Topsham Community to identify accessible, affordable, sustainable recreational solutions that will serve the multigenerational community and social connections among Topsham citizens.

Question for Harriman – Do other communities often use the option for voting for that would include the base site and potential add on for additional space – other items to be added later. Mark Lee indicated that this is very often the path that groups will go as it's often too expensive to get all the items in the first phase.

2. Recommendations for next steps

Question to Harriman: What will their report contain: Typically contains breakdown of all information collected up to this point (condensed version of survey results.) But will also consider: *What the community wants: what we as what the committee did, how we got to that point. What other communities have for comparable facilities.*

Next steps beyond report would be a concept design or schematic design. (generally, this design is about 15% of what the full design would cost). Enough to take that design detail and determine the bond amount

1. Design process
2. Fund raising process
3. Site selection

The Community Center Committee will be responsible for putting a report together that details based on the original action steps from the selectboard **(Included in footnote of this document)**

1. This is the recommendation of the community center committee is....based on....
2. Future recommendations could include fundraising efforts (capital campaigns, fundraising consultant)
3. Other action steps or partnerships

4. Touring other Community Centers – Getting the community center tours in will be key to having information to provide for what other local Community Centers are doing.

Suggested dates for tour: try for the week of May 13th (Wednesday or Friday)

5. Review minutes from the March 25th, 2024, Meeting – Minutes were unavailable for this meeting except in email format. Will print March 25 and May 6th meeting and review both in June.

6. Action Steps:

Brian – To send the raw data so we can review the data in more detail.

Mark Lee- to begin process of report from the survey results

Pam- Looking into additional dates to tour other centers

7. Confirmation of next meeting date/ time: **Monday June 3rd at 5:15pm**

8. Meeting adjourned. Time 6:29PM.

Parking Lot:

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