

Topsham Community Center Committee

Minutes for Meeting: March 25th, 2024

1. Call to order. Time: **5:18pm**

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

Staff: Pam LeDuc and Mark Waltz

Guests present (if any): Ryan Holmes

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

3. TCCC Feasibility Survey Discussion

Responses to date – As of this afternoon, 480 responses. Will be in the Cryer for the month April. Pam will do another push to FB after the Easter Holiday. Thanks to Kim for entering the paper surveys into the system. Brian Robertson sent email prior to meeting with some additional notes:

“In general, pretty large support for the idea 71% support 20% say it depends.

Among those that support or say it depends - the most often mentioned facilities (before we talk about taxes) are:

Meeting rooms to serve various needs (a teen center, childcare, or other activities)

Indoor walking track

Fitness center

Multi-use room for functions (such as events, gatherings, or dances)

Most would support given the property tax increase though some would change the mix and a few would no longer support it. The same four facilities top the list but the percentage supporting each has dropped.”

Any further action to be taken by the committee before 4/30/2024.

Where else do we want to go to get additional responses: Kim suggested leaving some cards at Elementary Schools. Schools are happy to share enrichment programs, doesn't feel in their best interest to share/ promote the survey. Steve will follow up to see if a survey link can be sent to staff.

Kathy mentioned good success on the transfer station. Would also be willing to do a library or another transfer station day. Mark/ Steve will reach out to Highland Green to see if they can distribute with their lists.

Open discussion on where to leave else we can reach out for further responses.

Plan to give some time for Cryer to go out, Highland Green email list and library list. We will regroup via email if additional action is needed to reach goal of 1,000 responses prior to end of April.

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4. Discussion/ Next Steps after Survey Complete

Focus currently on getting survey responses –prior to planning next steps.

Will need to have report and conversation with Hariman prior to knowing path forward.

5. Touring other Community Centers – Selecting locations

Pam reached out to Wiscasset; Dwayne would be willing be host our group for a visit.

Waterville: Would also be a good location to connect with.

Windham: Another option - Harriman was involved in planning early on planning stages.

Other spaces discussed were Freeport Y, St. John we can do a meeting night.

6. Review minutes from the February 26th, 2024, Meeting- Fix to Lynn's last name on Item #9 on previous agenda. Otherwise, minutes have been approved.

7. Action Steps:

Pam to repost to FB.

Pam to resend to email lists.

Pam to follow up to see if Library.

Pam to order additional post cards.

Steve to follow up with School District to see if survey can be sent to staff.

Steve to follow up with contact at Highland Green to see if it can be emailed out.

Leslie to see if email can be sent to The Highland community.

Kim to post one survey post card on Community Center bulletin board at Hannaford.

Alison to add to agenda – Guest Presents (with introductions)

Discussion with Ryan (comments):

Is there a way to make is less scary to complete the survey because if you select all the items, the impact to taxes can be overwhelming. Ryan concerned that town residents may not support with how the numbers are listed out. Group discussion regarding the idea of the survey was more about what are willing to pay for vs the actual cost listed on the survey. We could view other options – partnerships with Y's and/ or fundraising efforts. Ryan very supportive of finding a way to get this community center to happen – hopeful that there is purpose to have more then just operating expenses coming from revenue.

8. Confirmation of next meeting date/ time: **Monday May 6th Meeting – 5:15pm**

Tentatively Saturday April 27th - TBD- Car Pool to trip as a group to visit area community center(s).

9. Meeting adjourned. **Time 6:10pm.**

Parking Lot:

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