

**RYE TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, February 5, 2020  
5:30 P.M. TOWN HALL**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Nina Parrott, Secretary Kaitlyn Coffey, Victor Azzi, John Loftus, and John Mitchell

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Parrott called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance at 5:32 p.m.

Vice Chair Parrott asked Member Azzi the status of Jim Verra and the survey.

Member Azzi expressed his concern that Mr. Verra has not received the contract from the Town yet. He has not had an update on the survey work yet. He stated that he will call Mr. Verra for an update.

**II. Public Input**

Michelle Bingham, 1 Central Road, stated that she was at the meeting in support of the Committees efforts and thanked them for their efforts. She also wanted to find out about the TAP Grant. She added that she is working with the Rye Congregational Church and Reverend Lavoie on potentially developing a community center. It would include an outdoor skating rink, tennis courts, basketball courts and other amenities. Reverend Lavoie has asked for private citizens to help with the liaison, as he does not want it to be represented as a church initiative. He wants it to be to a community initiative.

She stated that as Rev. Lavoie's visions are the same as the RTTC, as they move forward, she would like to do a better job of communicating back and forth to make sure that they are aligned and not working in independent silos. There are great things happening in town, but sometimes the communication is not there, which can create duplication of efforts among the different groups. She stated that she will be happy to be the liaison. The Recreation Department will also be involved, but the Church is looking to set up a private independent foundation that will run independently from the church with a Board of Directors. It will also be independent of the Rye Recreation Department. It will be funded by individual contributors and will run parallel to Recreation, but act independently from a financial prospective.

The primary piece of the project will be the outdoor skating rink that will go behind the church parking lot.

**III. PR Campaign Update**

Vice Chair Parrott reported that she has ordered 50 signs. She thanked Michelle for donating. She added that the signs will be in Monday.

She asked if the Commission needs Board of Selectmen's approval to pass out flyers at the Transfer Station.

It was confirmed.

She reported that there may be some funds left over from the donation from the signs to do a flyer that says "Vote Yes on 10". If not, the Commission can do some informational flyers. She also reported that she has received permission from the PTA to use their website and their Facebook to get the information out.

Member Coffey stated that she is writing a blurb for the Historic District Commission Article for the town newsletter. She asked if each Committee needs to submit their own. She suggested an RTTC update. These are due on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chair Parrott stated that Chair Stewart will be displaying the schematic design drawing at the library.

There was discussion on the idea of holding presentations at the library to explain the project. Member Loftus stated that he had done about ten sessions on the Town Hall. He stated that it was hit or miss on the attendance. He recommended getting the schedule out way in advance of the event. The alternative would be to display the photos and the schematic design. He felt it is somewhat self-explanatory.

It was also decided to have the information displayed at both the schools and to send the flyers home with the kids in their backpacks.

There was talk about having something displayed at the election on Tuesday. Vice Chair Parrott will talk to Moderator Eaton to see if they can get permission to do it.

There was talk about sending the information through the schools' e-mails.

Members Loftus, Coffey and Parrott, volunteered to make time to hand out the flyers at the transfer station on February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Member Coffey suggested asking the Civic League to post the schematic. Vice Chair Parrott will ask Mr. Borne.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Member Azzi asked if the Committee will be meeting next week or if they would just wait to see how the vote turns out.

Member Loftus recommending starting the discussion on the buildings.

Member Azzi stated that by next week the Committee should know the status of Mr. Verra's work.

There was discussion regarding how often the Committee would have to meet going forward.

Member Loftus pointed out that the survey will give CMA the information they need to do the drawings. So, the Committee really does not have any input in that regard; however, the Committee should start looking at the buildings.

Vice Chair Parrott said that she will talk to Chair Stewart to see if there is anything the Committee should be doing and if they will be meeting next week.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding how the decision on the vote regarding the buildings will go. The consensus was that there are still too many unanswered questions regarding the buildings that may work against the vote.

The Committee agreed that getting a copy of Barba and Wheelock's space needs report would be a good place to start.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by John Loftus to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Seconded by Victor Azzi. All in Favor.**

Respectfully Submitted.  
Dyana F. Ledger