

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

6:00 PM THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

GRANT HOUSE

- **Public Comments**
- **Approval of Minutes**
- **Subcommittee Team Updates:**
 - **Funding – Gould/Olsen**
 - **Construction and Site Evaluation – Fyfe/Raimondi**
 - **Operations – Cohen/Murray**
 - **Communications/Marketing/Promotion – Scott/Crafts/Schwab**
- **Action Items and next meeting date**

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

6:00 PM THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

GRANT HOUSE

6:00 PM – Regular Community Center Building Committee (started at 6:05 p.m.)

Present: Greg Fyfe, Adam Gould, Bill Olsen, Richard Raimondi, Gregory Schwab, Brianna Scott, Peter Murray (ex-officio), Robert Palmer (ex officio), Jacqueline Crafts (alternate)

Absent: David Cohen

Others Present: None

Call to Order

Chair Olsen called the meeting to order

A. Public Comments

1. Palmer stated that he had met with Darryk Kelly, York School Committee (YSC) member and Vice Chair of the Reorganization Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC). Kelly had told him that the committee will probably offer three options to the YSC regarding reorganization of the schools. One of the options may be to keep Village Elementary School open and close Coastal Ridge Elementary School (CRES) and another option may be to not close any of the schools. Palmer reported that RPAC would probably make its recommendation to the YSC sometime in the next few months.
2. Following Palmer's report, several topics were discussed by members of the Community Center Building Committee (CCBC), including
 - a. The impact of the reorganization of the York schools on CCBC's timeline,
 - b. The need to do a site visit of CRES,
 - c. The need for further study beyond the feasibility report as it didn't have CRES as an option,

- d. The financial impact to CCBC's final proposal if CRES is the proposed site instead of VES or 32 Long Sands Road,
- e. The timing of both YSC's renovation projects and the Community Center going before the town voters,
- f. The impact on Parks and Recreation activities if one of the schools is closed and the Community Center is not approved by the voters, and
- g. Palmer volunteered to speak with Marla Johnson, Selectboard member, who sits on the RPAC, to gather further information.

B. Approval of the April 3rd Committee Meeting Minutes

Fyfe moved and Raimondi seconded that the minutes from the April 3rd meeting of the Community Center Building Committee (CCBC) be accepted as distributed. Vote: 6-0, motion passes.

C. Approval of the April 10th Center for Active Living Walk-Through Report

Raimondi moved and Fyfe seconded that the report from the April 10th walk-through be accepted as distributed. Vote: 6-0, motion passes.

D. Approval of the April 17th Village Elementary School Walk-Through Report

Fyfe moved and Raimondi seconded that the report from the April 17th walk-through be accepted as distributed. Vote: 6-0, motion passes.

E. Tour of Coastal Ridge Elementary School

The committee decided to tour the CRES on at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Murray will coordinate the site visit with York school officials.

F. Subcommittee Team Updates

1. Funding:

Olsen stated that there is nothing new to report regarding funding for the project.

2. Construction and Site Evaluation:

- a. Raimondi distributed a handout comparing the existing CAL spaces versus the Feasibility Study's Final Report's proposed space.
- b. Discussion of the proposed community center and site included the following:

1. Need for CAL facilities to be on the ground floor,
2. The flexibility that VES would give for CAL and other Parks and Recreation activities,
3. Preference of Parks and Recreation staff of VES over CRES,
4. The ability of using VES for a multi-phase project (i.e.: converting existing spaces with limited renovations for most activities and services and a new gym or pool and then in a second phase and/or third phase adding in the remaining facilities,
5. The voter appeal of using existing structures in some form versus the construction of an entirely new facility;
6. Ability of VES for other school and non-school activities, such as Adult Education classes and other revenue-generating rentals (e.g.: private day care, yoga studio, dance studio, etc.).
7. The ability for expansion at VES compared to CRES,
8. The viability of 32 Long Sands Road site in comparison to either VES or CRES, and
9. The need for inviting a member of the YSC and/or RPAC to CCBC meetings.

3. Operations:

- a. Murray distributed a subcommittee report detailing notes from conversations that he and Cohen had with various community center directors.
- b. The committee decided to table the discussion of the report until Cohen was in attendance.
- c. The committee decide to wait to schedule site visits for three areas community centers: Wiscasset, South Portland and Gorham until after the CRES site visit.

4. Communication/Marketing/Promotion:

- a. The committee discussed at length a recent Facebook thread regarding Warrant Article 50 (\$50,000 from unassigned fund balance for use by the Community Center Building Committee) on

the May 17, 2025 York town ballot. CCBC committee members were concerned about misconceptions and misrepresentations discussed on the Facebook thread, including feasibility study costs, prior votes on a community center, use of the proposed funds, the need for the project and the underuse of and inability to use the Community Auditorium located at York High School and how it impacts community perceptions of the proposed community center.

- b. Raimondi distributed a draft of a response to the Facebook thread. The response addressed the use of the \$50,000 study budget, the importance of the proposed project, potential use of an unused school property, and the expertise of the CCBC members.
- c. CCBC members agreed that the Communication/Marketing/Promotion subcommittee should do monthly updates of the project on the Parks and Recreation website and that other communication avenues would be used to direct inquiries to the update page.
- d. Schwab moved and Raimondi seconded that the subcommittee draft a monthly progress statement to be forwarded to the CCBC members from Olsen and that it be voted on at the next CCBC meeting. The adopted statement would then be uploaded to the Parks and Recreation site. Vote: 7-0, motion passes.
- e. Murray volunteered to work with the subcommittee on drafting the statement using Raimondi's response as a basis.
- f. Gould brought up a previous discussion about the creation of a "Friends of the York Community Center" group, which could be used to help advocate for the project and dispel any misinformation about it in the community. CCBC members discussed the use of the email list of interested parties that had been gathered during the Feasibility Study process.
- g. The committee discussed the need to foster support for the project from the members of the Selectboard, the Budget Committee and the YSC.

G. Action Items and Next Meeting Date

- 1. The main action items are
 - a. The development of the monthly CCBC update and

- b. The upcoming site visit to CRES, tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 8, 2025.
2. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 15 at 6 pm at the Grant House.

Adjourn

At 7:49 PM Chair Bill Olsen adjourned the meeting. Without objection, so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Schwab

Secretary