**COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE**
**MEETING AGENDA**

**6:00 PM THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026**

**GRANT HOUSE**

- **Call to Order**
- **Public Comments**
- **Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2026**
- **Friends of York Community Center Update**
- **Other Items**
- **Action Items and Next Meeting Date**

**COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**6:00 PM THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026**

**GRANT HOUSE**

## 6:00 PM – Regular Community Center Building Committee

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

Absent: Robert Palmer (ex officio)

Others Present: Michael Modern (Chair Parks & Rec Board and School Committee) and Tom Rose (Parks & Rec Board member)

## Call to Order

Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

## 1) Public Comments

Olsen opened the floor to public comments;

A. Modern reported that as a new School Committee member he would work to get a clearly defined school consolidation proposal as soon as possible in order for the CCBC to continue its work.
B. No public comments had been submitted since the last CCBC meeting.

## 2) Approval of the March 19th Committee Meeting Minutes

Raimondi moved that the minutes from the March 19th meeting of the Community Center Building Committee (CCBC) be accepted as amended; Fyfe seconded, and the motion passed without objection: Vote: 7-0.

## 3) Friends of the York Community Center (FYCC) Update

Scott reported that the FYCC board had met twice since the last CCBC meeting. Among the various items discussed were the following:

A. Board vacancies: the FYCC board is still lacking candidates for three positions: President, Treasurer and Community Engagement Chair;
B. The board will host two informational-gathering sessions for interested non-profit groups in the area on June 24 and July 15. Communication has been

sent to the numerous non-profit entities in York to request that each send a representative to either of the sessions to gather information concerning needs for services/activities and interest in the community center project;

C. The next FYCC board meeting will be held on Monday, July 20 and the members will discuss the results of the two sessions with non-profit organizations;
D. Alyssa Wright related to the FYCC board that she would donate her time the capital campaign and her organization would only charge for staff time and for the use of fundraising software; Wright also told the group that about $6000 is needed for the startup of the campaign;
E. The FYCC board is working with Wright to develop a timeline and plan of operation for the capital campaign;
F. Scott related that about 30 members are on the FYCC mailing list;
G. Olsen noted that the FYCC non-profit name needs to be transferred to the board once all main offices are filled;
H. Cohen commented that it is very smart to bring the civic non-profits onboard at this stage;
I. Scott noted that in information gathered at the sessions should be of benefit to the CCBC in its work;
J. Gould stated that it is good to create a diverse group of champions for the project; he also commented that it is important to develop a strong coordinated support from the York Selectboard

**4) <u>Other Items</u>**

Other items discussed by CCBC members including the following:

A. Crafts, Scott and Murray reported on the results of the forum that the Town of Kittery held in regard to the $15,000,000 bond for improvements to the Kittery Community Center which was passed in 2024. Among the items discussed were the following:
    i. Proposed project items included improvements to the fields, a splash pad, improved parking, a pavilion, a pump track, and a snack shack;
    ii. After the bid process the approved amount was proven to be insufficient to achieve all proposed items;
    iii. The forums were used to elicit the community's ideas on how to revise the proposed project items to stay within the approved bond;

iv. Murray reported that two of the Kittery council members were there and very supportive of adding youth activities and that the group developed five pillars for the project; and
v. Scott related that the Kittery forum was very organized.

B. Olsen opened the meeting up to discussion from committee members in regard to the group's next steps. Among the ideas discussed were the following:
i. Fyfe stated that going to a Plan B site would be hard for a large portion of town residents if there would be a viable, no-cost site available in the future;
ii. Raimondi agreed with Fyfe that the most logical alternate site would be the Short Sands property which lies in the flood plan; he added that the CCBC needs to await the Village Elementary School (VES) site's availability; Olsen concurred that in the minds of the voters if the town had a vacated asset it should be used for some purpose that benefits the taxpayer;
iii. Cohen noted that the committee could use this time to develop a punch list of what the community wants;
iv. Gould said that a hard look at another site may be necessary if VES remains uncertain;
v. Murray noted that assessing the community's desires was done in 2017 and 2024;
vi. Cohen asked if there was money left to have informational/advocacy meetings;
vii. Gould noted that the capital campaign could be addressed as well;
viii. Olsen suggested that with the upcoming state election now may be a good time to communicate with York's state representatives and senators regarding approval of a local transfer tax;
ix. Gould added that a local sales tax to assist communities with capital projects could be added to the conversation with state elected officials; he believes that the majority of coastal towns would be in favor of a local sales tax;
x. Olsen noted that it is time to refocus the discussion from "what is good for the tourist" to "what is good for York residents";

xi. Cohen proposed that the CCBC move to quarterly meetings during this "waiting" period;
xii. Murray mentioned that the Route 1 Planning Committee is having a public meeting on Tuesday, June 11 at 6 pm at the York Public Library to discuss zoning, water, and other proposals, including a bike path and a turning lane;
xiii. Modern offered that the East Coast Bicycle Trail is interested in a spur into York;
xiv. Crafts questioned whether the committee should look at a feasibility study for Coastal Ridge Elementary School (CRES) in case that is the facility to be abandoned by the school system; committee members agreed that it may be beneficial to do so; Murray said that the 2024 Feasibility Study's CRES information could be reassessed and updated;
xv. Cohen offered that the CCBC could develop a "pillar" branding strategy to get the community excited about the project;
xvi. Olsen also suggested investigating options to rent some of the space to private entities, such as a day care;
xvii. Gould stated that the committee should be in contact with Maine Health as a potential partner for the project;
xviii. Rose posited that it is essential to present a concise concept of the project to achieve community by-in; and
xix. Olsen agreed that the committee members should use this time to develop a clear picture of the project.

**5) <u>Action Items and Next Meeting Date</u>**

A. The main action items are as follows:
   i. The Communication subcommittee will meet to develop updates for the website and other social media;
   ii. Schwab will relay the updated meeting schedule to the town personnel;
   iii. Olsen will assist the FYCC board with obtaining its non-profit status;
   iv. CCBC members will discuss proposed legislation, such as transfer tax and a local sales tax, to appropriate civic and state officials:
      a. Cohen will talk with Gerry Runte;
      b. Olsen will discuss with Holly Sargent and Peter Joseph; and

c. Modern will communicate with Michelle Myers,

v. The Communication subcommittee will prepare an update for the Selectboard to be presented in late September or early October; and

vi. Scott will relate FYCC activities at the next CCBC meeting.

B. The next regularly scheduled CCBC meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 6 pm at the Grant House.

**Adjourn**

Crafts moved that meeting be adjourned; Gould seconded, and the motion passed without objection: Vote: 7-0.

At 7:38 pm Chair Bill Olsen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Schwab
Secretary