

Hildreth House Improvement Committee
Minutes of the 2/3/14 meeting
At the Hildreth House

Members present: Laura Andrews, Richard Blinn, Pat Jennings, Connie Larrabee, Fran Nickerson, Ann Taylor. Members absent: David Vannicola

Others present: Alan Frazer (CPIC and FinCom member), Debbie Thompson (Director, Council on Aging), Lucy Wallace (Board of Selectman liaison)

Connie called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The committee approved the minutes of the 1/6/14 meeting.

1) Connie said that she submitted the Annual Town Meeting warrant article for the \$3.6 million building project from the Council on Aging (COA) and the HHIC. She said that HHIC's mission is done: it has completed its charge.

2) The Capital Planning and Investment Committee (CPIC), including Selectwoman Marie Sobalvarro, voted to recommend that the building project be deferred for an indefinite period. Selectman Leo Blair has already gone on record as opposing the plan. Connie said that a majority of the selectmen need to approve an article to get it on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, and four of the five have to agree to put a debt exclusion question on the ballot at town election, so approval does not look likely now.

3) Richard and Ann said that a citizens petition is a possibility to get the article on the warrant without Board of Selectmen approval. Ten signatures are required. Lucy said the deadline is the end of February.

We agreed to talk further at the COA board meeting next Monday, which will be followed by a joint COA-HHIC meeting with representatives of the CPIC to talk about their approval criteria, process, and future support.

4) Town resident Alan Frazer, who is on the Finance Committee and CPIC, dropped in to recommend that the COA separate its parking area emergency funding request into two areas: lighting and parking. The HHIC voted unanimously to endorse the COA's request for immediate safe lighting and parking.

5) In a phone call to Laura, Rick Maiore suggested that the committee check out the feasibility of selling the land surrounding the Hildreth House to a developer for senior housing in exchange for renovating Hildreth House. Connie and Lucy said that one of Harvard's housing committees considered that option several years ago. Lucy said she would send Laura the name of someone involved in that decision so Laura could track down more information.

The next HHIC meeting is schedule for 5:30 p.m. at the Hildreth House, following the 4 p.m. COA meeting, to which HHIC members are invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.
Laura Andrews, recorder