

Update and Selectmen meeting Monday Dec 4th

I wasn't able to give everyone an update yesterday since I had to leave right after details were given concerning the Santa Breakfast. A lot has happened since the last Friends meeting. Some, if not most, of the updates you might have heard about already. For those of you that haven't heard, I'll try to include everything.

- Sarah Andrews sent an email with conditions for her continued fundraising efforts. A response was sent back from the Board of Trustees asking for everyone to work together as a team. Sarah notified us that she would not proceed with her contract on Monday, November 20th.
- Allison Rickenbach submitted the application for the Charitable Gaming grant.
- The co-chairs of the Expansion committee, Amanda Martinelli and Allison Rickenbach resigned as co-chairs. The email they sent stated that the responsibility of raising \$2 million without the support of an experienced fundraising professional brought unanticipated challenges and added strain. We thanked them for their efforts and hope to see them at future events.
- The Selectmen's meeting on November 20th did not result in our receiving an endorsement for a warrant. The Selectmen told us that they want us to include Parks and Rec in the building plans. When they were told that Parks and Rec were the party that left negotiations, they wanted us to prepare new plans with the inclusion of Parks and Rec. Dan requested that a warrant appear on the ballot even if we did not receive an endorsement.
- The Budget committee meeting was held on November 30th. We did not receive the endorsement of the Budget committee.
- Thanks to Brenda Beer, the Selectmen put us on their agenda for December 4th, Marilyn Cavanaugh suggested that instead of asking for a warrant for \$4 million, we ask for \$230,000 or some amount that the Selectmen can endorse and we can use as seed money as a Capital Campaign for the expansion and to hire a Capital Campaign firm. Something that can be placed on the ballot and show support from the Selectmen without adversely affecting taxes. This option would also allow it to pass with a 50% voter approval instead of the 2/3 needed for the \$4 million bond warrant. Liz Michaud presented this option to the Selectmen. The Selectmen discussed if an amount ranging from \$50K to \$100K could be transferred out of an existing account which wouldn't affect taxpayers. This wouldn't show up on the ballot which is what we are hoping. It was stressed that we want something on the ballot. The Selectmen will decide which option, if any, they can endorse and at what amount, in January.

Please consider attending the Trustee meeting at the Library on Monday December 11th, at 7:00pm. Your ideas and opinions are important and appreciated. Trustee meetings are public. Please attend and stay informed. So much has happened in a few short weeks, it is easy to lose details in the re-telling.

If you aren't able to attend the trustee meeting, I'll update at the next Friends meeting and answer any questions that I'm able to. Please feel free to send me an email with questions if I haven't been clear or forgot to include something.