

Town Center and Library Committee
Minutes November 16, 2023 – Amended 11/30/23
7-8:30 p.m.

Present: Josh Arneson, Laurie Dana, Jeff Forward, Dave Healy, Amy Wardwell

Community Members: Judy Bush, John Hammerslough, Betsy Emerson, Rich Dana

I. Welcome and Public Comment

Betsy stated she was here to support energy efficiency aspects of the Town Center Project, John agreed as well.

II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda - None

III. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a) Presentation of Proposed Town Center Renovation Project

Jeff welcomed the members of the public and started the presentation on the proposed Town Center Renovation Project. Members of the public asked some clarifying questions during the presentation.

Judy Bush, Board Chair of Radiate Art Space, brought up that in the current plan there is no tenant space for Radiate to continue in the building as the basement will no longer be occupied space due to flood regulations. She advocated for continuing discussions about finding a space within the current plan for Radiate and feels that the community needs to know what tenants will be in the renovated space prior to the bond vote. She talked about Radiate as more of a Richmond Community Art Space. She understands that the Selectboard has the final say on which tenants occupy the space in the building and Jeff agreed that is the case. The Committee can make recommendations about the building uses and tenants, but the Selectboard has the final say. Radiate is on the November 20 Selectboard meeting agenda to talk about being included in the project. Jeff stated that, if the Selectboard directs the committee to try and do this, we could go back to the architects to adjust the design. This would likely mean an additional fee to Black River as we have completed the previous contract.

Judy also asked whether the site work of \$1.16 Million could be done at a different time and not be part of this bond issue. She pointed out that the parking lot may be needed for trailers to house town and/or P.O. staff during the renovation process. Jeff stated that some sitework is required—stormwater mitigation and flood mitigation—and that as he understands it only about half of the \$1.16 million could be deferred to another time.

b) Items for next agenda – November 18 Special Meeting

Presentation of Proposed Town Center Renovation Project

8:30 PM IV. Adjourn