

TOWN OF LANGDON

PUBLIC MEETING – PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER AND KITCHEN

FEBRUARY 27, 2011 – 7:00 P.M. – LANGDON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Community Kitchen Planning Committee Members Present: Helen Koss, Everett Adams, Fred Roentsch, Betty Whipple, Marilyn Martin, Polly Bancroft, and Dolly Beauchesne.

Selectboard Chair, Ron Batchelder opened the meeting by welcoming community members and stating the purpose of the meeting. He pointed out that the meeting's purpose was to inform townspeople about the proposed community center kitchen prior to the Town Meeting Vote asking for support for the project.

Helen Koss spoke to start the committee presentation, the committee got cost figures from LaValley Building Supply indicating cost of entire project is much less than earlier estimates indicated. Total cost on handout presented to those present \$48,606 for basic construction, \$7,300 for kitchen equipment, \$8,000 for plumbing, and \$25,000 for heating. Helen pointed that the cost of cooking ventilation system was not included in these figures. Helen also told those present that the committee was formed after the 2011 Town Meeting Vote authorizing the formation of a committee to implement the 2007 plan to have a community space in the west end of the Municipal Building. Helen pointed out that at the time the town built the fire station and renovated the municipal building, the community space was put on hold due to cost considerations. The 2011 Town Meeting Vote calls for the committee to report back to the 2012 Town Meeting.

Polly Bancroft spoke about who would use the proposed community space. The committee envisions youth groups and community groups using the space. It would be rented for private functions such as bridal showers and receptions. The space will be flexible so that all size groups can use the space.

Betty Whipple, committee member from the Selectboard, spoke about the potential of the space being used as a short term emergency shelter. There will be a shower and the building has a backup generator so that people could use the building during extended power outages. Homeland Security and Emergency Management has grants available for development of this type of space.

At this point, copies of the plan drawn by Chris Carbone (Langdon Resident) were passed out. Helen pointed out that the plan was preliminary in nature. Marilyn Martin explained the details of the drawing which includes a kitchen, large meeting room, two bathrooms, two small meeting rooms, and a mechanical room.

Helen said that the community club and the planning committee had worked together on this project. It was pointed out that the community club has supported town activities and residents for many years. Polly told the group that the community club paid for the plans and has set aside \$5,300 toward the cost of the kitchen fixtures. They plan to raise the rest of the cost of furnishing the proposed kitchen.

Everett Adams pointed out that LaValley's prices for materials were quite good, that La'Valleys is supportive of community projects.

Helen told those present that she feels good about Grant process. They have looked into both Rural Development and Homeland Security and Emergency Management as possible sources of grants. Both of these grants require a match, but it can be in kind (labor).

Marilyn spoke about community club fundraising efforts to support the project. They have collected \$3,295 in donations to date, spent \$1,000 for the plan to be drawn, and have a total available for the project of \$7,531.

The meeting was opened for questions from those in attendance:

How much is available in grants? A final plan and the support of the town is needed to move forward with the grant applications.

How much space will be left for the food shelf? 18 feet by 40 feet, the space used by the food shelf now will not be used for this project. The space being used for storage by Friendly Meals will be used as part of this project.

At this time, Marilyn Martin spoke about the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. It could be held in this space and seat more people at one time. Helen Koss pointed out that the large area would seat about 125 people.

Dennis McClary made a statement that the Town Hall is the community center and the heart of the town. Marilyn Martin replied that the town needs both the improved Town Hall and the proposed community center.

Sharon Crossman spoke about costs and taxes. Young families won't be able to afford to live in Langdon, if we keep spending money. Marilyn Martin said that this space would give young families a reason to move to Langdon.

Gina Beach asked if there were hidden costs associated with this project. The reply was that we are too far away from the actual operation of the space to know all the costs associated with the space. The cost will be made public as plans are finalized.

Bob Fant pointed out that it would be easier to make a decision if people know ahead of time what will come from grants and what all the associated costs will be. Betty Whipple replied that if the article passes to support the project, by the 2013 Town Meeting all associated costs will be calculated and made public.

Selectboard Chair, Ron Batchelder, closed the information meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Cunniff