

## Stamford Community Building Group Meeting

April 10, 2018

Attendees: Pat Sullivan, Caroline Burch, Sara Bonthuis, Gina Zauli, Susan Flash, Micah Hayre, Victoria Jefferies, Bill Levine, Dan Potvin, Stephen Greene, Helen Fields, Eleanor Derby Kilfoyle

### Potential Location of the Proposed Gathering Structure

Given the lack of options for a building location that is visible to those driving through town on Route 8, it was agreed that using the space in front of the school should be thoroughly researched. The school site has the advantage of:

- convenience for school and library activities
- proximity to the community garden
- the potential for overflow parking at the church thereby adding usable event space on the school driveway, on the adjacent north-side hill and in the Ethier memorial space
- the opportunity to create a building and landscape design that complements the school building and grounds and creates a “town green” aesthetic
- the space can handle a structure as large as 24’ in diameter (the Readsboro structure is 20’ and the Adams structure is 16’)

The space in front of the school presents challenges that will need to be addressed:

- building less than 50’ from the road requires a variance (the selectboard is amenable)
- sightlines for drivers will need to be considered when determining the size, location, and roofline of the structure
- the safety of (and access to) the space surrounding the structure, given proximity to the road, will need to be considered

### Structure Design

It was agreed that the structure and landscape design should complement the architectural style of the school building and should incorporate the northside hill and Ethier garden space. Other design considerations include:

- the structure and grounds need to be handicapped accessible
- lighting and landscaping are important elements of the “New England Village Green” aesthetic
- research on the value of village greens has been done and should be reviewed
- photographs of other village greens in VT are available (Nancy Bushika) and should be reviewed
- the “gazebo style” used in Readsboro and Adams is too limiting and not consistent with the style of the school building – a variety of design styles should be considered
- solar roofing would open the door to potential grant funding
- a bulletin board and/or kiosk in the space would serve a positive function

### Process and Next Steps

It was agreed that all members of the community should have the opportunity to participate in the planning and building process. In the spirit of transparency and inclusion, the meeting notes will be posted on the [stamfordvt.org](http://stamfordvt.org) website. A couple of signs with the website address have been posted near mailboxes in town. The installation of additional signs is planned. Additionally, current committee members will continue to invite others to participate. For example, Dan is creating a list of volunteer laborers and will talk to these individuals to encourage their participation. The involvement of children in the project will be a priority.

The design process will begin with preliminary design drawings that Victoria will create as soon as possible and with a target of completion in time for review at the April 20 Community Building Committee meeting. Once reviewed by the committee, larger drawings will be created in time for presentation on Green Up Day (May 5) when a cluster of canopies will be set up in the approximate proposed location of the community building structure. It was suggested that tables under the canopies be set up with information about the Stamford Community Building Committee (featuring preliminary drawings of structure design options), Seed Savers, and The Train for Trish race.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 20, 6 pm, at the firehouse. All are welcome.**