

## **Stamford Community Building Group Meeting**

June 12, 2018

Attendees: Pat, Caroline, Sara, Gina, Susan, Victoria, Bill, Helen, Priscilla, Lynn, Marta, Cindy

### **Information Sharing and Survey Distribution**

A one page information sheet recapping project goals and progress was shared. The sheet accompanied a survey that was distributed at the town recycling center last Saturday. The sheet appears below at the end of the meeting notes.

With the intention of gathering input from as many members of the community as possible, the survey will be distributed at the recycling center again this Saturday, June 16. It was suggested that the information sheet and survey could be distributed during the hazardous waste collection on July 28, on the last day of school, at the free lunch held in town every other Tuesday, and at the women's breakfast this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. The information could also be posted, with permission, on the church bulletin boards. The WNAW radio station (1230 am) is another possible outlet. The survey has been posted on the town's unofficial website (stamfordvt.org) which generated some responses. The notes from every Stamford Community Building Group meeting also appear on the site.

The survey results gathered thus far were reviewed. The survey and results as of June 13 appear below:

### **Stamford Community Building Survey**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information phone numbers, email addresses \_\_\_\_\_

60 responses as of June 13

1. Are you interested in the possibility of creating more of a "town center" environment in Stamford?  
Yes 44      Maybe 12      No 4

2. Are you interested in an outdoor gathering space to be located at the town/school center?  
Yes 46      Maybe 10      No 4

3. Are you interested in developing and participating in the building of such a structure?  
Yes 22      Maybe 26      No 12

4. If yes, how might you wish to help?.... many varied responses

Conversations about the project at the community tag sale and during survey distribution revealed that some community members think that the Stamford school will close as a result of a merger. The Stamford school is not closing. Information about the merger can be found by contacting the school or the school committee.

To sustain momentum for the project, it will be important to stay in touch with those community members who have expressed interest in helping with the project.

### Preparation for Selectboard Presentation

With goals of receiving support for moving ahead with project development and learning what processes may need to be followed, a presentation to the selectboard will be an agenda item, if possible, at the July 5 meeting. With a “go-ahead” from the selectboard, work can begin on securing the assistance of architects (at no cost) or devising an alternative plan if the architects are not available. Input from architects would provide the information necessary for a cost analysis and a grant seeking strategy.

A one page draft outline of the presentation was distributed and discussed. The draft requires considerable rewriting and will be reviewed again at the June 26 Community Building meeting. It was suggested that maintenance requirements be addressed during the presentation and that the terminology used (to describe hardscape, etc) should be easily understood and/or fully explained.

In discussion about the presentation, the project goals were reviewed. They are:

1. Create a “town center” environment, visible from Route 8 that identifies Stamford as an attractive, active community that values its residents, history, and natural beauty.
2. Create an outdoor, covered gathering space that encourages and accommodates a wide variety of school and community uses and is functionally and aesthetically integrated with the natural and structural elements of the entire property.

While survey results and anecdotal reports reveal growing support for having a structure on the side or in back of the building and not out front, there are varying opinions about the value, aesthetics, safety and maintenance concerns, and required resources associated with creating a town center environment in front of the school. For the purposes of addressing concerns and showcasing potential, it would help to include sketches and photographs when presenting the project to the selectboard and the community. At this stage of project development, more than one option should be presented for review.

**Prior to the next meeting, all participants are encouraged to gather photographs of existing town centers and gathering spaces. Sketches of potential building designs will also be shared at the next meeting.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26  
6:30 pm at the school.  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

## **Stamford Community Building Group**

### **Primary Goals**

1. Create a “town center” environment, visible from Main Road, that identifies Stamford as an attractive, active community that values its residents, history, and natural beauty.
2. Create an outdoor, covered gathering space that encourages and accommodates a wide variety of school and community uses and is functionally and aesthetically integrated with the natural and structural elements of the entire property.

### **Review of Input Gathered from Community Members to date (June 2018)**

1. Option One - Meet both project goals using the open space in front of the school. Create the attractive, welcoming hardscape with seating for use by students and community members both during and outside of school hours. This landscape would include a large sign identifying the town, and allow for temporary signs to announce events. This option also includes a building structure in front of the school, integrated with the hardscape.
2. Option Two: Meet both goals using space in front of the school and space on the side and/or back of the school (near area of the pre-school playground or the basketball court).
  - Front: Create the attractive, welcoming hardscape with seating for use by students and community members. Again, the landscape would include a large sign identifying the town, and allow for temporary signs to announce events.
  - Side/Back: Create the covered gathering space that would be visually integrated with the landscape in front of the school.

### **Things to Think About**

- A larger space behind the school might allow for concurrent events (e.g., concert, barbecue, play areas for kids) The visual integration of the structure with the community garden, playground, and basketball court may encourage greater use of those spaces
- The hardscape, seating area, and signage in front of the school could be stage #1 of the overall project and accomplished in a relatively short period of time
- River access could eventually become part of the integrated whole
- The spaces to the side and back of the school offer grand views of the mountain range
- The structure should be directly accessible to the school and town office
- A structure in the playground area could only be used by the school community during school hours
- A setback variance may be needed
- A remnant of the old school building could be incorporated into a modern landscape in front of the school
- A structure that provides children with shade could attract grant funding
- Presenting the Selectboard with more than one option is a good idea