Present: Stephen Pilcher, Deb Rickner, Jere Urban, Melanie Cote, Heather Bessette, Peter Straube

Reporting out regarding the December Open House:

Heather - Visitors were in support of a town hall, library and community space. Visitors did not want an overly "modern" look.

Jere heard at Recycling: He talked with about 30 people. Of those there were 5 who did not want their taxes to increase due to the buildings. It would be a good idea to talk with people again at Recycling. It is helpful to show residents the concepts and spaces now and involve them because in the past residents did not have much of an idea of what was going on with the process. We need to hold more Open Houses and continue contact with people.

Stephen: Did not hear from anyone that they did not want a library built. Rentals with walkout. Concerns regarding operating costs and we need to address this in our FAQS.

Melanie: Had about 30 people visit the library to see the space and discuss plans. Had one person wondering why the town hall couldn't be renovated so this will also need to be addressed in the FAQS.

Deb: Open House was positive community event since it also involved the store (food), rescue (Mark) and the Boy Scouts at the tree sale. It was helpful to have Sharon at the Open House to help answer questions. Majority of people supported new buildings.

Peter S: It wasn't a scientific poll since it was a self-selected focus group, but the Open House reinforced themes we've heard and gave us more clarity. One focus is to keep costs low and another focus is that functions are primary, build something we can be proud of and the building should allow us to do what we couldn't do before. We need to continue to talk with residents. We need talking points for Town Meeting. It's critical to distribute FAQs to inform residents of answers.

Heather: Only a few people asked about cost.

Design Idea from Sam Burr - Listers need to be near the vault and the clerk.

Design Build vs. Architect...take 3: (Even though we'd previously decided to use a Design Build firm, the Design Build vs Architect discussion came up again.)

DB - They'd give us a cost number but not as likely we could do our own site work and landscaping. Will work with us on changes, but only so much.

Architect - Informed guess regarding cost but no cost number set in stone. We'd bid out to builders. It might be easier to include the community in site work and landscaping. We pay for any changes.

Reviewed and discussed posters of 1 story (better interaction of community, flow and shared use of space) and 2 story (may cost less) design strengths.

The $800,000 question is how do you build a space that has the flow, community interaction and easy shared use of the community space (which residents want), but do so for $800,000 (which residents also want)?

The new community space should fit into a "portfolio" of the various current community spaces. If there's a space in town that already serves the same purpose, it's unnecessary to build.