

Community Outreach Meeting - September 26, 2019

Summary of Responses from Community Members

Should the new building be close to the street or set back?

9 - close to road. 20 - set back.

Scale should blend with existing buildings and homes. Not too close and not too tall at street level.

Close but not as close as church. Close enough to encourage foot traffic and to ensure safe winter access esp for the elderly and mobility challenged.

Set back enough to be safe, but close enough to feel like it's part of the town center.

We will need sidewalks if people are going to take full advantage of the building.

Set back to minimize road noise.

Maybe some parking in front for quick stops. Most parking probably to the south.

How should the building take advantage of the site views?

Don't destroy views with parking

Nice option but not necessary given purpose of building

you don't want to have to walk far from the parking lot. full advantage - face the lake

South and West views should be taken advantage of with windows and outdoor seating

Yes without taking away from residence views.

Windows in back of building

People can enjoy the view from inside the building without having the building block the view from the road for walkers, bikers or drivers.

Lower level opens onto slope toward pond. Decks on top of main level.

View of pond and Adirondacks. Community room facing west with big windows

Build at top and overlook parking lot below. Natural slope for music and performances facing west

Outside community space. Not too much parking - pay attention to aesthetic

Community spaces should have priority for views over offices

Shared parking with church - Patio or porch facing pond

Rain garden (2) to help mitigate storm water runoff

How important is it to make the building energy efficient, or net zero?

23 - important to be energy efficient. 2 - not important

Net zero not expected as cost would defeat bond vote (2). Doesn't have to be net zero.

Do not connect to VT Gas line. Critical. Solar. Heat pumps. Important to lower operating costs. Solar a must. Wind power is most efficient green energy.

Important while being cost effective. Net zero would be optimal but budget is important.

Net zero or LEAD certification requires too much up front (2). Strike a balance between and keep an eye on implementing systems that could be easily upgraded and made more efficient in time.

Maybe passive cooling with monitor windows. Future solar panels. Maximize solar south. Operating costs should be minimal or net zero. Radiant floor heat. Well insulated = less operating costs. Net zero within budget.

Very important for environmental concerns plus on going expenses and maintenance should be minimized.

Rather not see a parking lot as the first thing that greets you from the street. Keep cars/parking to north or below a terrace to the west.

As close to net zero as possible (making use of Efficiency VT resources) This is very important if we are looking at a resource that can serve the community for many years.

Net zero may be beyond the point of diminishing returns and may not be cost effective.

How does an important town building look like to you?

historic looking - 2, Typical new England, no cupola, warm, classically small town, Welcoming, attractive, fits the town and history, inviting and not institutional looking, classic architecture, complement the church next door, classy, simple, white, green trim, vinyl siding, fits vernacular of our town. Taking elements from our existing town hall. Historic, classic, timeless. Timber frame. Would prefer 2 story to keep with character of neighborhood. Traditional, stately, accessible, blends with local architecture, makes use of site, various offices all accessible off common hall would allow for easy access among depts. And it should also have ability for privacy. Greek Revival, comfortable, inviting spaces and seating, fitting with character of village but not so much as to offset construction costs, classic New England, modern with traces of classical detail, looks natural with features relating to historic design, traditional lines and trim, substantial but welcoming, not a sprawling modern monstrosity. Maximize natural light. Doesn't have to be imposing. Cupola to the east. Open so people can see each other coming and going. Open, light, New England like, lots of windows, classic in style for many years to come. Modern features but not a modern design that will soon look outdated. Pay respect to traditional town hall look though have more modern touches that are not overwhelming. rustic VT

What are some features you expect in a community building?

WIFI. Natural light, adequate ventilation. Welcoming to all people with specific focus on accessibility

A cooking space is very important to me. Food fosters community. I would be interested to learn about an option with a commercial kitchen that the town could rent out to food businesses and make money.

Adequate entry space for informal conversation

Welcoming, safe access for all abilities, well lit. Meeting space separate from work space

Safe ingress/egress for traffic and pedestrians and awareness of noise and headlights and general commotion on neighbors.

welcoming - 3, easy flow and access, bright, kitchen, bathroom, openness, post office

I teach yoga at the church but it is too small. I would rent the community space for classes.

Flex meeting space -6, energy efficient, no wasted office space, no 12' ceilings

Large meeting space for 50-100. Need a space for more than 50 people or it's not a community building.

Can accommodate a lot of different activities. High ceilings. Avoid cost of elevator.

Ability to rent space for community spaces - kitchen space. Large indoor space that is gym size

Clear signage or architectural features showing where in the building to go for what.

Big windows, natural light, use of local wood and local contractor and local artwork. Outdoor wood fired cob oven, community garden, community involvement, walking trails

Comfortable, good acoustics (4). Kitchen is important for rental space option. Lots of parking, comfortable chairs

How do you see yourself interacting with people in the building?

Library primarily, but now that I'm retired will also use community building often.

Gather information, get books, come for evening activities, bring young musicians I teach to perform

Much as I currently do but far more attending meetings, tending to my business at the library and town hall, run into people and chat which currently happens at annual events.

Fundraisers. Usual brief interactions with town clerk, etc

Attend meetings, Use the library, Visiting town clerk for dog licenses

Chatting with neighbors on front porch or back patio with views of pond and Adirondacks

Love knowing other people and having another space to connect. Attending school games and scouting events. Library most importantly, meeting space, clerk/treasurer/listen several times a year. Paying taxes, checking out library books. Using library and services of town clerk, using meeting space to teach and learn new skills. Easier for town committees to work, my family would spend time at the library.

What are some possible ways the community could make use of the new community center?

campfire cave, watering hole, Town meeting, voting, youth groups, potlucks, voting classes, show films, weddings - 2, birthday parties -2, memorial services, meetings, yoga, exercise, clubs, music venue, community performances, kid and teen center and activities, 4-H, volunteer groups, scouting, rent out for events, sponsor tournaments, allow other community groups to use, yearly carnival, coffeehouse, improved meeting areas, yoga, bone builders, movies, celebrations, training events, farmers market, strawberry festival, speakers, pop up events, storytelling, Mary Johnson Childcare. music, exercise, social opportunities. Low cost rental for residents for family parties and events. Programs unrelated to town business, lectures, town events, festivals, community cooking classes and community meals, rent potential to small coffee shop or food vendors,

No need for one yet

Are there new ways of thinking about a library?

Bus stop outside. library programming, lectures, book clubs, art projects, star watching, meeting place

Co-working space. Café. internet based services. more digital / computer access options. Study/reading space space for child story reading and various adult gatherings, author talks, movies

current programming is already moving into “new” areas like game night and knitting night, etc

more comfortable seating (than 1 chair). potential for more computer access. more space for library programming

Loan out more than just books - loan out tools (2), sports equipment. Library could provide more activities with more space! I want a reading room with great views. Also space for children and families.

Maker Space (2). Yes - what’s happening at Bixby and Middlebury libraries.

Source for educational presentations. Work with historical society on presentations.

As an education center. More books. More computers - 2.

Keep it the same place. Keep cost down. Why expand something that young people are not using?

Build down the road - later. The library staff already offer classes and projects in the small space they currently have. Computer access, reading space, guest speaker space

The future of libraries is not about book collections but is about community. Travel talks, acquire skills, performances. The new library programs have been wonderful and should have better space to continue.

I’m concerned that the library is currently only open 16 hours/week. There may not be more demand for this? We can’t spend this much on an asset that gets used to little. Can we find other uses which are compatible?

Can the library display historical artifacts to attract visitors to learn about history of the region?

Will the investment enhance your community?

25 - Yes

Yes, it's very difficult for the community to interact outside of the school events (which some are not involved in) and town meetings. They will help create a sense of community.

If it is done well. Prefer not to abandon existing infrastructure. Any community is enhanced by having a library and a school.

Absolutely. When people relocate, many look at community facilities such as schools and libraries to help guide where they may like to be.

If we want to attract people to locate here, especially young families, we need modern, up to date spaces. Young families look for vibrant libraries and schools when deciding where to locate.

Yes, pride in a beautiful, energy efficient building. Nice place to conduct town business.

Yes, if it's truly a community center. If it's just a town hall and library, it will not. It will just make what we already have a bit more comfortable.

Yes, I often leave this community to engage in community events (elsewhere). I would love to host and participate in community events in Monkton to foster some community with my neighbors.

Are you willing to invest in your community for today and for future generations?

30 - Yes

If the design meets the needs of the community in 50+ years.

The annual cost seems reasonable.

Yes but I don't have unlimited resources so this is tricky to get value for services while keeping quality and best design.

If the bottom dollar is low enough. (2) If it is affordable.

If it is done well, i.e. not a modern looking building. Keep classic, historic lines/dimensions.

Yes, we are a growing town and will have increased needs.

Yes. I'm concerned how to convince others of the value of such an investment.

Is there value in this investment to you?

30 - Yes. 3 - No.

Yes, I have pride in my town center and have a place that's central for the community to gather. We need this. It's what's missing in Monkton.

We definitely need more useable meeting space. The ability for community groups to use the space.

If we expand the planned use to include needs of kids and families.

It'd be nice to have a community center because besides our school, Monkton lacks community infrastructure
Town hall needs better office space. Library needs more space. I would use the library more if it were larger
(2).

I would feel honored to be supporting this grown for our town - a long term value. It would made me proud of Monkton.

It's worth the tax increase.

Yes, but am concerned about others' ability to pay the increase in taxes.

Building a sense of community.

Capital campaign should be used for bells and whistles to make a beautiful building. Taxpayers fund building that is adequate.

Concerns about Mt Abe bond at same time

MISC:

I hope the committee seeks input from the church and other neighbors and be sensitive to their concerns.