

ECOA Ad-Hoc Building Committee

Minutes – January 14, 2025, meeting

Present: T. Brown, L. Button, C. Cote-Stosz, S. Eddy, D. Graichen-Moore, C. Schweitzer, C. Tarail

Excused: P. Brough, C. Conner

Absent: S. Chan

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. Approve minutes: Tom made a motion to approve the December 10, 2024, minutes, which was seconded by Crystal. The motion passed 7-0-1

III. Public Speak: no one was present for public speak.

IV. Report from Report Draft writers (Leslie, Cindy, Cathie, Tom)

a) Report will be a draft to the mayor for her review and it is not published yet.

b) Discuss Respite/Day Health option: Coincidentally, there was a report yesterday in the national news on research done by Johns Hopkins University and NYU Langone Health on the growing number of senior citizens who have or will develop dementia and the impact this has on them and their caregivers. Discussion ensued around this growing need. Cindy found online that UMass Boston collaborated on a study with Rutgers University; the results looked at how senior centers can reduce health care costs and acute care usage among those with dementia, something important for Easthampton, which lacks adult day health and respite services. Cindy is asking Caitlyn from UMass Boston about it. Dan made a motion, which was seconded by Sandy, that we include a statement in the executive summary of our committee report, recommending to the building committee consider including a day health/respite space in the new senior center. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Discuss any edits to be made to content: The committee discussed the report. Tom made a motion, seconded by Cathie, that we add the word “strongly” to the 1<sup>st</sup> recommendation on page 1. The motion passed unanimously.

d) Discuss any edits to be made to formatting: there were no edits suggested to the formatting.

e) Send final draft to Mayor by January 21<sup>st</sup>: Leslie will make the two changes to the draft after which it can be sent to the mayor.

V. Adjournment: Dawn made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Cathie. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 28th, noon-1 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Button  
Secretary