

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Present: James Cross , Doug Niles, Jay Ancel of Black River Design Architects, Joel Cope and Ed Barber from The Newport Daily Express.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 PM.

Jay Ancel presented some preliminary findings and proposed third floor layouts from his planning study considering use of the third floor, an elevator, and gym stage location.

A full-sized elevator will cost around \$275,000. There are some grant monies available to help pay for an elevator, but one large contributor requires that the Town have committed tenants. Although apartments were an initial consideration, the board was unanimous that the Town should not be a residential landlord, so apartments are ruled out.

Grant opportunities for an elevator were discussed. USDA might contribute a maximum \$50,000. Smaller grants might also be available. Vermont Community Development Program could contribute a significant amount if we had committed tenants. Some would have to come from residents. The time it would take for an elevator to pay for itself would depend on how many rentals and how much grant money. Education tax would have to be paid on the rentals.

The space is largely being heated now because there is little insulation between the second and third floor, so the third floor runs around 60 degrees.

Joel will contact several social service organizations and others that might be interested in future rentals at good prices.

Meeting adjourned 10:30.