

**Lymes' Senior Center Board of Directors
Revised Special Meeting
In the Old Lyme Town Hall, Old Lyme, CT
February 22, 2024**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Folland, Margaret Thach, David Griswold, Peter Lucchese, Christina Gotowka, Diana Seckla, Kathy Lockwood, Jeremy Crisp, Carolyn Ross, Fred Verillo, Mariette McCourt, Karen Geisler

The Business of this special meeting is regarding the Lymes' Senior Center Renovation Project to formulate board members' questions, comments and concerns so that they can be presented to the building committee, the board of selectmen and the finance committees of both towns.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Peter Lucchese at 4:02

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: John Kiker, Selectman, Old Lyme
The building committee has not done a very good job communicating.

III. DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS:

Peter Introduced the purpose of this special meeting summarized above. Jeri Baker, via the Examiner article says the building committee will put out a monthly newsletter to present what's important. Fred The project seems derailed to me - people are forgetting how important the Senior Center is for so many people - a second home, comfort, friendship, help. We need to be informed. People question, maybe we should reopen the Senior Center? Jane This needs to be resolved in a timely manner. The public should have input into the changes before they are finalized. David Why did the Senior Center close so early? Kathy Hope the finishes will be kept. Jeremy We have to reduce the cost of the project or raise more money. People need to get on the same page fairly quickly. John (public comment) It would be ideal if we could keep the plan as is and secure private donors. Kathy The issues I am worried about are the ones I am reading about. A newsletter by the building committee could be a good way to communicate. Jane In addition to the newsletter, Jeri will have a meeting on the 27th at the Old Lyme Congregational Church. Fred We need to know! I'm not sure how much authority the senior center board has. John (public comment) There could be certain things which can be prioritized for different times. Karen The existing building could be reopened with minor renovations. Jane Is

there a deadline for the grants? We need to stay positive. People will be relieved to have the answers. Christine We anticipate more people to be using the building. The longer the delay, costs go up, we need to keep it moving along. Perhaps the building changes could be shown graphically, in a diorama, so people can appreciate how much better the new center will serve the population. Jane Maybe a space could be set aside for such a display in City Hall for viewing. Margaret We would need the display at Lyme Town Hall as well. I have a lot of faith in the building committee. My big concern is communication. Diana People are asking when we can get back in the building. We need answers so we can let people know. Peter Suggested that the Senior Center board take an active role in the project. Fred We believed this was a done deal. The towns voted for this. The powers that be need to come back with a plan and solution. We had faith and trust. The building committee has been working for 4 ½ years. John (public comment) These are the firms the towns have selected. The building committee is a strong group. Jeremy Communication is key. John (public comment) We all need to get on the same page. Fred We need to be a little bit patient. Jane The Senior Center board should focus on programs and making sure they are available. We need to keep the seniors in mind. Peter to John How could the Senior Center board be helpful to the building committee? John I will get back with you. Let's all be positive. Jane Jeri is having a 45 minute informational meeting at the Congregational Church at 11:15 on the 27th.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Special Meeting adjourned at 5:14 pm. Diana Seckla put forth the motion, Christina Gotowka seconded. Motion Carried.

Next Regular Meeting: Next meeting: March 18, 2024 at the Old Lyme Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Emery
Recording Secretary