

For Immediate Release,

Friday, July 25, 2014

Community Center Study Committee (CCSC)

Mid-Summer Update

The Community Center Study Committee has been busy this summer, having hit the ground running after their formal appointment by the Selectmen in June. In that time they have visited a Community Center in Bedford and seen presentations on several other recently built community centers in neighboring towns. They also toured the Bemis facility and Hartwell pods with the COA and Parks & Recreation Directors to learn about current programs and use of space in their respective locations.

The CCSC was formed by the Lincoln Board of Selectmen to assist the BOS in evaluating the options for addressing the long and short term facilities needs of The Council on Aging, the Parks and Recreation Department and a number of smaller community organizations that currently utilize Bemis Hall, the Hartwell PODS and other facilities for programming and/or storage. For a list of members and to read the CCSC's full charge, please see their page on the Town website at <http://www.lincolntown.org/index.aspx?NID=569>.

In response to their Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to hire a consultant in June, as approved by the last Town Meeting, the CCSC received proposals from seven architectural firms and interviewed five. Abacus Architects and Planners was recommended by the CCSC to the Board of Selectmen on July 10; the Selectmen voted unanimously to grant Abacus the contract.

Abacus has extensive experience in community planning and architectural design of public buildings. They bring a great deal of practical understanding and experience to managing community and public facility projects. Their creative ideas concerning site studies and public outreach especially impressed the CCSC.

Over the rest of the summer, Abacus and the CCSC will be working on studying the sites identified at the State of the Town in 2013, as well as any others that may crop up along the way. The Committee will be offering a number of public forums to solicit community input regarding the various opportunities for consideration in Lincoln. Once set, the forum dates will be published on the CCSC's web page and in local press outlets. Abacus will work through the remainder of summer with the CCSC to become more familiar with the needs of the Council on Aging, Parks and Recreation, and other Lincoln organizations that use those municipal spaces.

The CCSC meets every other week at Town Offices unless otherwise noted. Agendas, minutes, documents and additional information are available on the CCSC portion of the Town's web site.

For further information or questions, please contact Tim Higgins, Lincoln Town Administrator on 781.259.2601 or via email to higginst@lincolntown.org.