

Notes from the Global Strategic Facilities Meeting 4/26/12

In attendance: Gayle Weinstein, Jerry Sargent (via phone), Michael O'Brien, Tom Landry, Dr. Colleen Palmer, Dr. JoAnn Keating, Dan Clarke

The purpose of the meeting was to begin a conversation between the Town and the School district regarding a town-wide space and facilities review.

The Town is in the process of determining its space needs. Several of our facilities do not meet State Code or are in need of renovation. The Annex, meant as a temporary facility, is now ten years old, and showing signs of serious wear.

Priorities include:

1. Bringing the Police Department up to code with additional space for a forensic computer lab,
2. Determining the potential for regional sharing of a Communications Center,
3. Bringing the Land Use department back to the "Town Hall Complex" area to provide better service to residents
4. Determine the "best physical fit" for our Social Services, Senior Services and Youth Services teams to work together and with the school system
5. Given the parking and other logistical issues, is there a better location for the Senior Activities Center

The School District may be facing declining enrollment, and is in the process of developing a long term strategic plan to address various scenarios. NASDEC has been contracted to do an in-depth enrollment study for the next 5-10 years. Once those numbers are determined, the schools will begin a space needs review. As part of this review, the Town would like to have a cost analysis of moving the preschoolers out of Hurlbut's East House, since that wing is closest to the Town Hall complex and can easily be integrated as municipal space. This project should be completed in the next six months.

Assumptions:

1. If enrollment is declining, there should be space available in the schools to be utilized for school district office space or municipal space.
2. Use existing facilities as much as possible;
3. The need to vacate the annex

The next meeting will be in approximately one month. At that time, we would like the School District to have established a preliminary time line for their projects, so that we can establish a time line for the town-wide plan.