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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

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### Community Center Development Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, February 13, 2025, in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

**Members Present:** Town administrator Paula Iken (presiding), Ben Benedict, Sarah Costin, Joan Dornhoefer, Marlene Hall, and Marie Watson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. Mr. Benedict moved that the minutes be accepted. Ms. Hall seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. Announcements

Ms. Iken announced that the town was working on a closing date on the medical building. It would likely be around February 28<sup>th</sup>, depending on availability of lawyers. There will be discussion on what will remain in the building. The Preservation Trust of Vermont visit is at 11:30 AM tomorrow, Friday February 14<sup>th</sup>. They will tour the building, inside and outside. Ms. Hall said that Bud sent his congratulations on the 2/11 meeting and vote. She also said that she was in discussions about the vault with a representative of the agency (Vermont State Archives and Records Agency?). This person was going to come down with another representative to assess the vault and determine what needs to be kept as paper and what can be digitalized. Mr. Benedict brought up looking at more than one vault company for comparisons. Ms. Iken noted that contracts over a certain amount (\$5000?) go through a bid process that must be approved by the select board. Possible funding for the new vault was discussed. There was further discussion of next steps with the new town office building.

5. Public Comments

No public comments.

6. Discussion of the 2/11 Special Town Meeting and vote

The vote was overwhelmingly for the purchase of the building. Ms. Hall noted that most people were positive when being checked in. Ms. Hall and Ms. Iken said that a member of the public had commented on how civilized and well managed the meeting was, democracy in action. Ms. Costin mentioned the town green as a part of the whole plan for the community and Ms. Iken noted that the green was integral to the town sewer system, which is a game changer for the town's economic growth. Ms. Iken asked what the next steps for the CCDC were. Mr. Benedict said he had gone back

through the plan and added what needed to be done to each space. This initiated a lively conversation about uses of spaces. Ms. Iken noted that the Select Board had a committee that will talk to all the town employees that will be using the space and allocate spaces after those discussions. This isn't a responsibility of the CCDC. The CCDC will be focusing on the community center aspects of the building and on the future of Cole Hall. Mr. Benedict said that the CCDC will be thinking through, presenting information, and making recommendations to the town, this time specifically on Cole Hall. Ms. Iken ran through the three options: the town keeps Cole Hall and uses it for municipal purposes, the town returns the building to the Universalist Church, or the building becomes a monument to the Cole family, notably to Uriah Cole. It was not mentioned who paid for upkeep for the third option. Ms. Iken stated that when Cole Hall was vacated, the bare minimum of lighting and heating would remain on until its future was determined. Ms. Iken later mentioned that the fire chief, Joe Vadakin would like to take the entire fire department on a walk through of the new building. She also said that a town citizen had suggested budgeting for immediate maintenance and repairs on the new building to prevent the "deferred maintenance" that happened at Cole Hall.

7. Review of Action Items

Preservation Trust visit on 2/14

Talk to Meals on Wheels

More research on vaults and funding possibilities

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM