

1/23/12 (9)

**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Steve Ledoux  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** Christine Joyce  
**Subject:** Fwd: Expanded membership for the SCBC community center committee  
**Attachments:** AFN Community Center Thoughts - 10-12-11.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPad, please excuse any brevity or typos

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mike Gowing <[mikeg.acton@gmail.com](mailto:mikeg.acton@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** January 14, 2012 6:35:56 PM EST  
**To:** Steve Ledoux <[sledoux@acton-ma.gov](mailto:sledoux@acton-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Expanded membership for the SCBC community center committee

Steve, can we get this on the next meeting agenda? SCBC wants us to create a sub-committee to explore the community center discussion to see what it would mean to the warrant article.

*Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Phone*

-----Original message-----

**From:** Paulina Knibbe <[p.knibbe@comcast.net](mailto:p.knibbe@comcast.net)>  
**To:** Mike Gowing <[mikeg.acton@gmail.com](mailto:mikeg.acton@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sat, Jan 14, 2012 14:15:34 GMT+00:00  
**Subject:** Expanded membership for the SCBC community center committee

Hi, MIke. Peter has asked me to chair the sub-committee about community use of the proposed new senior center.

I have some ideas about people to ask to join this subcommittee.

Sharon Smith McManus expressed interest about six months ago. She has a long history serving on the school committee so is well connected in that world. She was on the school building committee and was one the Danny's Place building committee so she has spent time looking into the needs and appropriate organization for a community center.

In addition, I would like to invite someone from the Acton Family Network. If you look at the attached 'wishlist' that they gave to the SCBC committee back in October, you will note that many of the things they asked for are exactly what the original committee had in mind for community use. I would like to ask whoever wrote this document as they sound quite reasonable.

Of course we should have someone from the Rec Committee as they will likely be the group that schedules use of the public spaces when the COA is closed.

Who will contact people to invite them ? I would like to get this up and running as soon as we can since we have a LOT of work to do before Town Meeting.

I know the BoS needs to appoint members so I would like to have a list to them of people who have agreed to do the work at the next BoS meeting, if possible...

Paulina

## Christine Joyce

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**From:** Margaret Woolley Busse [bussehome@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2012 9:16 PM  
**To:** 'Amy Yadav'; 'Artemis Blair'; 'Maya Minkin'  
**Cc:** 'Alycen Nigro'; Volunteer Coordinating Committee  
**Subject:** Update re: community center

Hey all—So I did have a chance to talk with John Sonner at our acton 2020 committee meeting last week re: getting on the senior center study committee. So he confirmed that indeed the Selectman support a senior center that would include community use and so he said that the senior center study committee was going to form a subcommittee to look into the community option. Therefore, that committee would/should be looking for members of that subcommittee, so he told me to tell you to absolutely submit your names to be on that subcommittee/committee.

So what you need to do if you are interested in being on this committee (and I hope you are!), email the Volunteer Coordinating Committee at [vcc@acton-ma.gov](mailto:vcc@acton-ma.gov) and then cc Peter Ashton at [pkashton@aol.com](mailto:pkashton@aol.com),

who is the head of senior center study committee, as well as Sharon Mercurio at [smercurio@acton-ma.gov](mailto:smercurio@acton-ma.gov), expressing your interesting being on the committee, why you'd like to be on the committee, etc. In order to be appointed to a committee, you have to go through a formal process through the VCC—it's not a big deal, but this is why you should start with them, but let Peter and Sharon know that you are applying.

Let me know how it goes!

Margaret

# Acton Family Network



Community • Family • Fun!

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AFN Thoughts on a Community Center:

October 12, 2011

## **What is AFN?**

The Acton Family Network (AFN) is a non-profit organization run by parents working together to increase and improve local resources for families with young children in Acton and surrounding communities. AFN offers themed family parties throughout the year, monthly story and craft hours, adult book group, day trips, mom & me and dad & me events, family outings, ongoing playgroups, babysitting co-ops, a fun and informative newsletter, and much more. AFN is affiliated with First Connections and the Justice Resource Institute.

## **Is there a need for a town community center?**

As a group, the board of AFN overwhelmingly feels that a community center for the entire community would prove to be a real asset to the town of Acton for the following reasons:

- Currently, the only locations available for community group use are the meeting rooms in the library and the common areas at in the AB schools and local churches. These spaces are limited and can be costly for non-profit organizations such as AFN. For example, it costs AFN \$400 to rent the gym at RJ Grey JR High for the Halloween party.
- Several Acton groups, including the school PTOs, the schools themselves, church groups, scouts, AFN, sports groups and local theater groups currently utilize, and therefore compete, for these limited facilities for meetings, activities and events. Timing of these events can be difficult with so many groups needing the same space.
- For AFN in particular, the library is not well suited for activities involving children unless we are outside. As a group, we have also had some difficulties with library staff when holding events in the library / town hall area (e.g., our bi-annual Tag Sale) and have since moved these events away from the library all together.
- The community center would also serve as a central location where families moving into the area (or those currently in the area) could get information about all groups present within the community. This information is not currently centralized and its availability could make Acton a more attractive choice when looking for a new home.

The building of a community center would offer groups like AFN a central place to hold meetings, activities and events for our members and the community of Acton. This localization would also enable AFN the opportunity to interact with other groups within the community who would also utilize the center. This interaction could lead to the building of relationships among the different Acton community groups, hopefully resulting in strengthening of community bonds and the offering of new activities and events for all the members of the Acton community.

## **What would we like to see in a community center?**

There are several items that would be on our "wish list" for a community center:

- Several large multipurpose rooms where large, community-wide events could be held.
- Several other meeting areas for smaller groups, such as group governing boards.
- A small office space where group records, forms and other group related information could be centrally located.
- A central "community center office" where community groups could leave information about the group itself and any upcoming events for current and future community members.
- A space suitable for arts and crafts groups, particularly those with children involved.
- A performance area for local theater groups, whether for practicing or performing (could be incorporated with the large multipurpose room).
- An outdoor play space for kids. An indoor play space for the winter would be great too!
- A full service kitchen (not staffed) would also be nice for meetings and other events held within the community center.