

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – July 24, 2014 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Moving Forward with the Fields and Community Center Initiatives

At its last meeting, on July 15, the Town Board voted to advance to the next step for each of the proposed projects to improve the Town’s athletic fields and to renovate our Spiegel Community Center.

The advice and views of residents offered at our four public information meetings, and otherwise, have been enormously helpful in shaping both the substance and way forward of each of these important community initiatives.

In particular, public comments helped to identify a number of significant variables to be resolved for the Spiegel Community Center Restoration and Improvement Project. Should we expand the building in back to add a new gym? Should we reconfigure corridor space on either or all floors to expand program activity space? Should we add on a dedicated reception area with additional office space?

The resolution of these and similar issues that came out of the public process will have a material effect on the cost of the project. They will need to be resolved in the master planning process. The outcome of that process will depend heavily on public input through the workshops, design groups and citizen committees whose work will be central to configuring the master plan. For this reason, it makes the most sense to undertake that process and complete it before deciding upon funding through a bond issue for the project. At that point the cost estimates will be that much firmer. This would place the stage for bonding this project at the same point in the process as the Town followed in planning for the athletic fields and, a decade earlier, in planning the new community library.

Accordingly, the Town Board voted to proceed immediately with master planning for the Spiegel Community Center Restoration and Improvement Project, authorizing and directing me, as Supervisor, to issue a request for proposals for developing the Master Plan. Bonding for the Spiegel project will not be part of the referendum set for September, which now will consist of the Athletic Fields Improvement Project. This will place timing for the community center bonding at a later point in the project’s trajectory, without affecting the timeframe of the project overall.

We are moving forward on Spiegel on the same timeline we would follow were we to bond the project now: from Master Plan/public input, to architectural design, to bidding the project, to construction. The bonding now follows the planning and design phases, as it has in similar projects. Subject to bonding, it should not affect by a day the ribbon-cutting on a completely restored and improved Spiegel Community Center. The train has left the station on schedule; we’ve updated the time for inspecting the tickets along the way.

For the Athletic Fields Improvement Project, the Board adopted bonding resolutions and set the date for a referendum on bonding for Tuesday, September 16. We will be providing information on the project in the months ahead and will determine the polling place and hours of voting in an upcoming meeting.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, design groups or workshops in the master planning for the Spiegel Community Center renovation. You can reach me at 248-6220 or by e-mail at bsmith@townofpittsford.org. As ever, please feel free to stop in to see me if you're coming by Town Hall.