

Next Steps on the Spiegel Community Center

On October 18, Pittsford residents resolved one of the Town’s longest-standing pieces of unfinished municipal business. The 69% vote in favor of a complete upgrade, remodeling and expansion of our Spiegel Community Center permits work on the project to move forward.

While much work remains before actual construction can begin, we have an understanding, at least in broad outline, of the general time frame between now and the project’s completion.

The Town will begin immediately the process of engaging a construction manager and confirming the architects and engineers for the project. We expect to have all of this in place by the end of November.

We anticipate that schematic design and design development will take place over the winter, beginning in December and carrying on through the end of March 2017. If the remaining design work is completed by then, we can expect to have the full set of construction documents in hand by the end of June 2017.

At that point the Town would issue a request for bids on the construction work. If this timeline holds as we move forward, we would expect to have the contractors selected sometime in September 2017, with construction likely to begin in September or October. We can expect construction to take a year.

Please understand that at this point, the timing of each step in the outline I’ve described could change somewhat. Subject to this caution, we could expect the newly upgraded community center to be completed and open for use by the Fall of 2018.

Of course, a project this extensive will mean closing down the community center for a period of about a year, to permit the work to proceed. The Town’s plan is to obtain temporary space for as many as possible of our community programs currently offered at Spiegel. The Town took this approach in 2004, when it relocated the library to temporary quarters for a year, pending opening of the new Pittsford Community Library in September 2005. So you can expect a certain amount of disruption and, yes, inconvenience, during that period. As we did in the case of the library, we may consider it as a short-term sacrifice for a long-term gain.

The Town’s year-long preparation and study to reach a recommendation to residents on the community center included working with a citizens’ committee. It involved substantial solicitation of advice and comment from Pittsford residents. Incorporating so much of that advice into the Town Board’s deliberation and recommendation, I believe, largely explains the public’s endorsement of the project by such a resounding 2-1 margin in the recent referendum.

As the project now moves forward, participation by Pittsford residents becomes ever more important. We at Town Hall will keep you abreast of milestones in the planning process and will

provide ample opportunity, through formal public sessions and otherwise, for continued participation by citizens.

At the risk of belaboring the point, I cannot emphasize strongly enough that, at this very early stage, the timeline I've sketched in rough outline almost certainly will be subject to variation and change. We'll keep you informed as matters proceed. Nevertheless I think it's both right and necessary to share with everyone our best understanding, at this point, of the steps ahead toward completion of this important civic project.

Finally, although I trust it goes without saying, our newly upgraded and modernized facility will continue proudly to bear the name "Spiegel Community Center" into the decades ahead, in honor of the career and accomplishments of Paul M. Spiegel, Pittsford Town Supervisor from 1966 to 1987.

I look forward to Paul cutting the ribbon at the reopening.

As always, you can contact me at bsmith@townofpittsford.org or (585) 248-6220 about this or any other matter of interest to you.