

TOWN MEETINGS

There was a town meeting held Sunday Night, September 12th. Below are notes from the September town meeting for those who were unable to attend. Town meetings are a great time to ask questions, voice concerns, and get information. The agenda is purposely left open to allow Congregants to guide the meeting based on their current interests. The next town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 12th at 7:00.

Town Meeting Notes

Update on high holidays

- Everything is all set – Kol Nidre will be crowded & parking will be at a premium.
- 325 people(including children) have said they are coming to at least part of the high holidays

Beth Israel memberships – about 100 families have joined so far

There have been no calls or out reach yet for families who had been members at CTI or Beth EL previously and have not yet joined – this will be done after the rush of the high holidays

Land

- A piece of property between Haggetts Pond & River Rd has been identified and is being pursued
- The land is being purchased privately by Sheldon Rubin & Howie Spector and then will be transferred to Beth Israel
- The exact location of the land is not being disclosed at this time for fear of driving up the price and scaring the seller
- A purchase and Sale should be completed shortly and they hope to be through all the Andover town committees by the end of Nov.
- All the appropriate feasibility studies have been done to determine that the land is suitable for building
- The adjacent property that was originally being looked at it as mainly wetlands and was unbuildable

New Building

- A committee has been setup and is interviewing architectural candidates
- They plan on interviewing 3 architects
- They have had preliminary discussions with Michael Rosenfield Inc Architects –
- He has done previous projects in Andover, including Sanborn, South & Pike School – so is familiar with the Andover building process & has also done synagogues as well
- He is going to prepare storyboards for the high holidays on the planning process and possibilities for the new synagogue – we are currently paying for time & materials for this
- After selection of an architect, conceptual development is probably a 4 month process
- Timetable – realistically- new building ready for high holidays of 2006

Budget

- How much can we afford to spend on building – in general terms - land costs will be offset by future sales of South Main Street building. Have about 2 million to build with, plan will be put together including potential mortgage, building fund, endowments, & assets.
- # of members questioned – why 100 memberships when both separately added up to 180
- need to go back & make calls & identify if more members possible
- will need to re-look at budget & deficit based on actual #'s now that we have them versus the proposed budget – the finance committee will be meeting to start this process

Other

- Asked for concerns
- congregants asked for other members to be flexible during transition
- votes of confidence expressed
- Need more community involvement & input
- Need new officers & board by beginning of year
- Asked about marketing Strategy? – yet to be determined – we previously hadn't felt ready to market ourselves yet – plan will be put together focusing on only conservative synagogue around & small with personal attention
- Vote taken on name for newsletter – was 10 votes for Shofar, 9 for K'hol Yisrael

**NEXT TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12th at 7:00**