

230301.CCBC report
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On March 1, the Community Center Building Committee voted to recommend that the Select Board hire ICON Architecture of Boston to prepare schematic building designs and cost estimates for consideration at next November's Special Town Meeting.

ICON was selected by a 9-member screening subcommittee (five community members and four town staff) and then received unanimous approval from the full committee and liaisons at an evening meeting the same day. (I served on the Screening Subcommittee, and Brandon Kelly is an active liaison.) . The screening subcommittee interviewed four firms, including Maryann Thompson Architects who had created the 2018 plan, before choosing ICON.

The Select Board was expected to accept the recommendation at its March 6 meeting. With that approval, the CCBC plans to have representatives from ICON revisit Ballfield Road before it meets March 8.

CCBC begins meeting twice a month on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM hybrid on Zoom and in-person in the Donaldson Room in Town Offices.

ICON's proposal was among six original responses to the Town's RFQ for developing building concepts at different price points to relocate the town's Council on Aging/Human Services Department to Ballfield Road and to address the facilities needs there of the town's Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln Public School District, LEAP and Magic Garden.

ICON describes itself as "a Boston-based, women-owned business with 45 talented staff. We believe great design begins with collaboration. It's that mutually engaging vision behind each of our designs that allows us to create lasting, memorable places."

Firm Principal Ned Collier and Project Manager Mark McKevez have experience working with municipalities on public projects. Their current relevant projects include Sturbridge Senior Center, Aquinnah Town Hall/Police Department, Nashua Center for the Arts, Salem (NH) Town Hall, Dudley House Restoration, and Fitchburg Main Street Theater. They also developed the feasibility study that resulted in Sudbury Town Meeting approval for the Fairbank Community Center now under construction.