

Jennifer Ranz

There is a lot of confusion in the community about what is going on with the Town Hall project. There have been so many questions that people don't have answers to. People want information. They want accurate information. I'm wanting to bring clarity to a few points of misleading or inaccurate information made to the public about the Town Hall. There have been many statements about the building NOT being used. But Two whole floors of the Town Hall are being fully used. The lower level are town offices and town records, the second floor has the giving closet, Gazette and a private studio and the room used for voting and Josh's office and the Collier room. All of these spaces are being used! The third floor is not being used because of ADA accessibility and needs an elevator. According to a 2018 architectural report -multiple options were provided for making the third floor ADA compliant. There are many towns in Vermont that have accomplished these types of projects with the funding by a variety of grants so it doesn't increase people's taxes. The 2018 architectural report also stated-according to the local Fire Marshal inspection the project would not need to include a sprinkler system, structural work, or lead abatement (it was confirmed by a study that there is no lead in the entirety of the building except for a minor amount round 2 door jams). Our town hall has been neglected and maintenance on this building is expected and ought to be taken care of on a yearly basis.

The town hall is providing space for a variety of uses. The town hall is owned by everyone. It is a valuable asset and many people have expressed a desire to have more spaces to gather and meet to bring more community spirit. Why would we even consider selling it to a private developer in order to pay rent and lease it back for all the things we use it for? That makes no sense.