

**Symmes Advisory Committee Medical Use Working Group  
Minutes from 10/2/2001 Meeting**

**Group Members Present:**

**Robert Carey; Retired Physician**

**John Berkoben; Internist; Lahey Clinic**

**Jerry Slate; Pulmonologist**

**David Walkinshaw; Co-President; Arlington Chamber of Commerce**

**Lynne Lowenstein; Realtor; Bowes, Pennell & Thompson/GMAC Real Estate**

**Patricia Worden**

Objective for medical use - To preserve over 100 years of medical use; key component of any future development.

Bob Carey - has had 2 meetings - Allen Reedy and Bob met with David Barrett; CEO of Lahey. Indications are that Lahey would like to stay, probably lease approximately 25,000 square feet. (This constitutes only about 1/7 of the space). Lahey will more than likely continue with lab and x-ray departments as well as Internal Medicine and the present medical subspecialties plus pediatrics.

2nd meeting (informal) with CEO of Mount Auburn, Charlie Lyons, and Bob Carey at the request of Charlie Lyons. The possibility of an obstetrician for prenatal care was mentioned. She did not want to place physicians of other specialties there.

Bob Carey will be meeting with the Director of Health South on 10/18.

Reported that the Lahey Pain Clinic will be moving out of Symmes in December.

The Committee realized that it would be difficult to go forward without having concrete figures or a signed *Purchase and Sale agreement* so it was decided to curtail approaching any potential tenants until the deal has been finalized. Therefore, most of the meeting was spent brainstorming potential medical uses:

1. Explore if other medical facilities would like to send physicians (independent physicians) - possibly develop swing space to make it more financially feasible.
2. Potential for an assisted living facility.
3. Elders gymnasium
4. Alternative medicine - including massage therapy
5. Possibly apply for state grant and utilize an area for medical research.
6. Using the facility for post-op care so that elderly patients who have been operated on in major Boston hospitals can come to Symmes for follow-up. (Patients don't want to worry about traffic and parking in Boston.) Elderly patients want as much medical care at Symmes as possible.
7. Home health care - this idea was nixed due to the fact that the space must be financially viable. Can't give some people a break on rent and charge other more to make up the difference. Would have to pay market rent.
8. Need for pulmonary function testing on site.
9. Possibility of having a pharmacy on site.

10. Possibility of establishing a health promotion program to address diet, smoking, weight control and other disease preventing behavior in our community.
11. Anything that is not self-supporting is not viable. It needs to break even, or be in the black; otherwise it's a constant drain.

Task for the group at this juncture is to prioritize the list in order of practicality.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2001 in the Town Hall - 1st Floor annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Lowenstein