

Minutes from Russell School Committee Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

Hybrid: Hadley Public Library Community Room and via Zoom

Present: Courtney Meyer (Chair), Carolyn Holstein (Clerk), Dan Regish, Alan Weinberg

Absent: E. Dragon, Amy Parsons (liaison to Select Board)

1. Approval of 1-9-23 minutes - unanimous vote to approve.
 - a. Article about a past meeting:
<https://www.thereReminder.com/localnews/hadley/hadley-majority-supports-russell-school-building-p/>
2. 1-18 Select Board meeting recap-the meeting went well. Courtney and Dan presented information, and the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the submission to the CPA committee
3. Finalizing CPA application - Courtney will finalize the application to the CPA. Included will be:
 - a. The list of estimated costs for each of the 4 proposed repairs that was sent to the Select Board
 - b. The letter of support from the Historical Commission
 - c. The results of the survey
 - d. Letter of support from the Municipal Building Committee, if applicable
 - e. For the Municipal Building Committee, which is scheduled to meet on 1-26, Carolyn said that Alan and Dan should recuse themselves from voting since their voting could be a conflict of interest - voting on the RSC as well.
 - f. Alan disagreed, but in terms of being above board on all issues, it was noted that abstention is important.
 - g. It was determined that there will be enough other members present to vote without them.
3. The application to the CPA is due February 1.
 - a. The CPA meets 2-13 and 2-27 - Dan and Courtney will attend the two meetings, and mainly Dan will speak to the application.
 - b. It was noted that the Goodwin Memorial received funds for historical renovation from the CPA, but that project may have expired, since the CPA requires that all projects be completed within two years.

- c. Courtney added that the Historical Commission will also ask for funds from the CPA for a proposed West Street walking tour, Hadley audio driving tour, and historical signage.
4. Next steps for MPPF - Because a MPPF application requires a 50% match of the requested funds, an approval from Town Meeting is required, and the application is so complicated, it was decided to wait until next year to apply.
5. Ground lease feedback from listserv - There was no feedback specific to Courtney's request for information about selling historical buildings but with the Town retaining ownership of the land.
 - a. However, there was good advice from one writer, which was to 'mothball' the building before stabilization by putting dehumidifiers in the basement and fans on the floors above.
6. Town warrant submission -Town Meeting is May 4 and, if CPA committee support the RSC's application, the Select Bd will add the application to the Town Warrant

Next meeting - February 6, 5:30pm at the library

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Holstein