

Minutes for Russell School Committee Meeting

Monday, October 24, 2022, 6:30-8:00 pm

Hybrid: Hadley Public Library Community Room and Zoom

Present: Courtney Meyer (Chair), Carolyn Holstein (Clerk) (via Zoom), Daniel Regish, Alan Weinberg

Absent: Emma Dragon

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The minutes were approved from September 12 and 29.
2. An update on the survey results was presented. 322 responded electronically, + 13 via hardcopy
 - a. 52% consider preservation of the building very important
 - b. 44% want to rehabilitate the building and 44% to stabilize it.
 - c. 4% want the building demolished
 - d. Very few of the respondents live outside of the greater Hadley area
 - e. At the meeting, the possibility for tours of the building was raised. Dan recommended against it for liability reasons. Carolyn asked that it be considered since the North Hadley former school offered a tour before the Town sold the building.
3. Funding Opportunities
 - a. In addition to Community Preservation (CPA) funds:
 - i. Mass Development offers grants - they have a department that specializes in towns. Dan said that he would invite staff member Karen Carswell (sp?) to the forum.
 - ii. Mass Historical Commission (MHC), preservation fund. Courtney to inquire.
 - iii. Valley CDC offers grants. Courtney to inquire.
 - iv. Consider connecting with a preservation circuit rider.
4. Prepping for town meeting
 - a. Alan said he'd have a table with the flyer, plus printed surveys for folks who haven't filled out the survey online. Carolyn offered to sit with Alan at the table.
5. Prepping for November 14 forum

- a. Possible questions at the Forum:
 - i. Would students be able to use the building? Dan says no, since the Building Code is much more stringent than 100 years ago (it would take much \$\$ to bring the bldg up to code). Perhaps the school administration could have offices there. Previous schools didn't remain due to accessibility and code issues. Courtney to contact the superintendent.
 - 1. Other municipal offices (was not further discussed)
- b. The format of the Forum was briefly discussed. Alan suggested a brief intro (by Courtney), a powerpoint presentation, and will share photos of the interior and exterior. Then perhaps a walk-through of the survey, and expand on the possible options for the building.
 - i. Questions could be addressed in the moment, as well as after the survey 'walk-through'.
- c. There will be a sign up sheet and paper surveys (for those who haven't taken the survey online). The Forum will be held November 14 at the Senior Center and via Zoom
- d. Courtney asked if we should have another meeting before the Forum. No one said yes (though Carolyn was coughing at that point and couldn't respond - she would have said yes).
- e. Courtney said that she would specifically invite the Select Board and Historical Commission to the Forum. The Select Board created our committee and the Historical Commission could work with our committee on the preservation efforts.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, Dec 5, 6:30 pm at the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Holstein