

Minutes from Russell School Committee Meeting

Monday, February 6, 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. The minutes from the previous meeting, Jan 31, 2023, were unanimously approved.

2. MPPF roofing followup
 - a. Courtney reported that if the roof, for example, is replaced before an application is made to the MPPF, what has been done previously to stabilize the building will be accepted, and will not make us ineligible for the grant.
 - b. Our contact person at MPPF strongly advised us to look into getting the roof replaced in-kind. We could offer publicity and advertising for its company. RSC currently has no leads for this.

3. Preservation Restriction discussion
 - a. The Historical Commission did this for North Hadley Hall, and could be the entity required to hold, administer, and enforce the restriction. The restriction will protect the exterior of the building only, and may protect some interior features if applicable. Denise Barstow Manz put Courtney in touch with her contact for preservation restrictions.

4. Prepping for the 2-13 CPA meeting
 - a. The application will be presented to the CPA and discussed via Zoom on Feb 13. Dan and Courtney will present our case, which will be voted yea or nay, on Feb 27 (Dan and Courtney will also be present for this).
 - b. Emphasize how solid the structure is, its seismic strength. Because of its age (built before modern building codes), IEBC would not have to be followed.
 - c. Dan reported on recent CPA grants for historical preservation - ½ million to restore the Goodwin library, \$370,000 for cemetery restoration, including replacing the stone fence at the Hockanum cemetery.

5. Other discussions

- a. The cost for demolishing the Russell building may be asked about at either the CPA meeting or Town Meeting. Dan and Alan suggested it may be around \$900,000, to be achieved with a combination of Town and State funds.
- b. Maintaining existing buildings - of which Alan said there are six - will be a warrant item for Town Meeting. Suggested funds for maintenance - \$500,000 per year.
- c. Dan explained that removing the chimney at the Russell School means only removing the exterior part of the chimney, then capping it. The interior part of the chimney remains, since it is an integral part of the structure of the building.

5. Meeting adjourned at 6pm. Next meeting will be March 6 at the library, 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Holstein