

**Minutes from Russell School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 11, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm**

Hybrid: Senior Center Community Room, and Zoom

*Present – Courtney Meyer (Chair), Dan Regish, Carolyn Holstein, E. Dragon*

*Absent – Alan Weinberg, Amy Parsons (Select Board Liaison)*

1. No public comment (no public present)
  
2. Minutes from 4-25-2023 were unanimously approved
  
3. Recap of Town Meeting vote on Article 18 – Vote was 140 yes, 10 no. Carolyn Brennan presented the article. Had bullet points, which Dan will provide for the next committee meeting.
  
4. Next steps
  - a. A feasibility study for the building will go out to bid as early as July 1. Later the RSC learned that the Russell School will be third to develop an RFP (request for proposal) behind the Goodwin Memorial Library, and the columns for the Town Hall. These projects are several years old and are finally being addressed!
  - b. Courtney said that she would reach out to Ms. Brennan to ask if the RSC can participate in the development of the RFP; Dan said he would help to develop the RFP. The problem, of course, is that the SB and Town had told the RSC that we could reapply for the stabilization funds for the fall Town Meeting, when approval of the needed CPI will be submitted. After the RFP is sent out, there are thirty days for the posting to stay up and responses to come in, then two weeks for the town to choose the bidder, all before construction can begin. The probability that all this will be completed before the proposal can be submitted to the CPA committee in the necessary time for approval before Town Meeting is almost impossible, as the CPA deadline is August 15. The RSC is very disappointed in the too optimistic predictions given by the Town Administrator to help preserve the Russell School building from further deterioration.
  - c. The RSC will ask the Select Bd to ask the Building Maintenance employees to install plastic flooring in the attic and buckets to collect drips from the leaky roof, and to add dehumidifiers to prevent mold from developing. The RSC feels that the recommendation that no further damage would happen before repairs can be made was naive and too optimistic.
  - d. Given the strong support for stabilizing the building from respondents to our survey, The RSC feels that more cooperation from the Select Board is needed. The Liaison to the SelBd, Amy Parsons, has not been active in helping the RSC, but we need her continued help now, more than ever. Courtney to

reach out to Amy to determine a date for our next meeting so that Amy can be present in person. We hope that more contact with the Select Bd will result in more help in moving the stabilization of the Russell building forward.

5. New Business

a. Courtney and Dan took the Open Meeting Law training that was recommended by town hall. The main point emphasized is that information can be shared outside of a meeting, but No Opinions or Options can be addressed except in a duly scheduled Open Meeting.

6. Next meeting will be held on June 6, 5:30 at the Senior Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Holstein, Clerk