

Minutes, Russell School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 5:30 pm

Hybrid: Hadley Senior Center Oakley Classroom, and Zoom

Present: Courtney Meyer (Chair), Carolyn Holstein, Dan Regish, Amy Parsons (Zoom)

Absent: Emma Dragon, Alan Weinberg

1. Public Comment - no public to comment
2. Minutes of 5-11-2023 approved
3. Bullet points from Town Administrator's speech, Town Mtg
 - a. Dan distributed a sheet from Select Bd meeting containing 2 sections: 1) Five points for "Select Board to engage a firm to undertake a reuse feasibility study for Russell School building, Scope of Work", seemingly taken from the scope of work completed by the Architectural Heritage Foundation; and 2) Five feasibility Study Goals, seemingly adjusted from the RSC survey.
 - Coordination with Town Administration and SelBd and community, neighbors and advocacy groups to ensure robust public engagement (ed. Note – didn't the RSC do this with the survey?)
 - Pre-development, stabilization, construction and operating budget estimates. Assist in project advocacy with state, local and federal officials and partners
 - Will help from the decision making process for the town, and define the case for the following four outcomes:
 1. Public project – The building will be funded by public sources with a public end use
 2. Public/Private partnership – The building will be funded by both public and private sources, with both public & private users. Eligibility for historic and other tax credits will be reviewed (RSC not – both costly and complicated to achieve)
 3. Private Project – The building will be offered for sale or long term lease to the private market, with potential deed restrictions.
 4. Demolition – A review of the process, procedures and costs for such actions will be included in the report
 5. Also look at other studies done previously for Russell School (RSC note – there have been three feasibility studies previously).

4. Committee involvement in feasibility study process: Note -from what we can tell, our committee may not be involved in the feasibility study process, despite our expertise in the building and interest in participating. Courtney to ask why Jake from AHF will be included in the writing of the RFP - has he been hired?
5. Another survey? The survey just completed had 562 responses, with 432 current Hadley residents. Amy thinks that, when the feasibility study is completed and actual numbers are attached to each repair to the school, another survey of just Hadley residents would be helpful for the SelBd to determine the support for the stabilization efforts.

Alison, who designed the first survey, said this could be done but it would be challenging to confirm whether or not respondents are Hadley residents unless we compare their names and addresses with town hall listings. Since our committee paid for three months of the previous Survey Monkey (at \$99/month), we would ask for funding from the Town.

We should consider including those who do pay taxes in town but don't live here, ie: business owners; or those whose children school-choice into Hadley.

6. Miscellaneous

1. Posting RSC minutes- no minutes have been posted to date, but the goal is to do so, and to correct the committee membership listed as well. Town Hall has all this information.
 2. Town Report – Carolyn has been working on a full report of the RSC actions this past fiscal year, but will write up a one-page report for the Town Yearly report as well.
 3. Hadley Media - After our next meeting, Hadley Media will no longer be recording our meetings. It's possible for a RSC member to be trained for filming our minutes, using the "owl" (the recording device)
 4. Report for SB - Carolyn is continuing to work on this.
7. New business – Alan walked into the room at the end of this meeting and told Courtney that he would send her a resignation letter. All other members will remain on the committee, and Amy is expected to remain our liaison.
 8. Next meeting – July 14, 5:30 pm at the Senior Ctr
 9. Meeting Adjourned 6:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Holstein, Clerk

