

Russell School Committee (RSC)
Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022

Present: Courtney Meyer, Chair; Carolyn Holstein, Scribe; Alan Weinberg, Dan Regish

Absent: Emma Dragon

Consultant: Larry Tuttle, on-call consultant for the Municipal Building Committee

Because the Meeting could not be filmed for the Town's media channel, all decisions will be recorded again at the next meeting of this committee

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Item #1 on the agenda: Stabilization. The most needed repairs for the building in order to stabilize it were discussed at length. Four or five things were emphasized: the roof replacement, repointing exterior brick masonry, stabilizing the foundation, and construction of a retaining wall & regrading around foundation.

Possibilities for the roof were: replacing the slate roof at an enormous cost (the Town approved \$8,000 several years ago, \$ is gone since we didn't use it in time); asphalt shingles, which the Committees felt is not desirable for such an important historic building; or a metal roof, which was used historically and currently used with success. The RSC will recommend a metal roof.

Larry also recommended stabilization measures of putting the exterior columns inside to protect them and putting some storm windows (plastic, for example) over the windows.

Larry will give a rough quote for these stabilization measures, since costs have risen around 10-20% or more in the last couple of years.

Item #3, tour of the school, was not discussed.

Item #5 Alan suggested submitting requests of funding for the four repairs to the Community Preservation Act (CPA) committee.

Also this committee will recommend that the CPA consider borrowing funds or bonding for the repairs.

The CPA meets September 12th. Alan will prepare updated requests to the CPA and will have them available for our next RSC meeting.

Dan volunteered to speak to the Select Board at their next meeting concerning the stabilization repairs recommendations.

Item #2; Town survey: Several suggestions to improve the survey were agreed upon. The one disagreement was including the proposed costs for the improvements. Carolyn was opposed to this unless funding sources were also included. Alan said that he would make the suggested edits and sent the draft to the committee prior to our next meeting.

How to distribute the survey was discussed, and several suggestions on how to do this were made. Courtney said that she would talk with the Town Administrative assistant on the best way to proceed.

The next meeting was set for Monday, August 29, 6:30 pm at the library meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm

Respectfully Submitted
Carolyn Holstein, scribe for the meeting