

## **Russell School Committee,(RSC), Meeting Minutes**

**September 29, 2022 held at the Hadley Town Library, 6:30pm, hybrid meeting**

Present: Courtney Meyer (Chair)(via Zoom), Dan Regish (via Zoom), Alan Weinberg (in-person),  
and Carolyn Holstein (via Zoom)

Absent: Emma Dragon

1. Minutes from the previous meeting need to be approved unanimously at the next meeting, as not everyone had a chance to read through them.
2. The survey concerning the Russell School was discussed at length.
  - a. The Select Board approved the survey for distribution. The only question they had was if the parcel and/or building was protected by the Historic District. Courtney touched base with Diana West who informed us that neither were protected, meaning it could be demolished and/or sold.
  - b. Alan had several small edits to the survey, which he said would not need further feedback from the Select Board.
    1. Changing the first sentence to read: "The Russell School building is an important and highly visible historic building in the Town Center Historic District" , thus eliminating some awkwardness. The Committee agreed to the change.
    2. Changing the word "youth" to "children" in the first paragraph. The Committee agreed to the change.
    3. Shortening to just two options for the question "Did You or Family Members Attend Russell School" section
      - a. yes, I and/or family members attended Russell School
      - b. no, no one in my family attended Russell School
        - i. The Committee agreed to the change, if Alison thinks it makes sense. Courtney to touch base with Alison.
    4. Shortening the "About You" section (when were you born) into three age groups under 30 (born after 1992), 30 to 60 (born 1962 to 1992) and over 60 (born before 1962) The Committee agreed to the change, if Alison thinks it makes sense. Courtney to touch base with Alison.
    5. Courtney said that Alison will review the Alan's proposed changes to the survey before finalizing.
    6. For the water bill insert: (his words) "your input on the future of the Russell School Building is important" rather than "what do you envision..." He said that we are asking respondents to let us know their level of support for various options, not just envisioning some ideal.

- a. We will keep the Survey Monkey open until January 5, 2023. Courtney paid for the first month, Dan and Alan offered to pay one additional month each.

3. In terms of distribution of the survey, the Committee had agreed at the last meeting (with the Select Board) that a short slip of paper asking all residents to take the survey at the online address would be included in the Water bill. This was approved by the water department and the Select Board. The bill will be mailed to Town residents on November 1. The slip of paper is about three inches in height, allowing 4 to be printed per page. Courtney will make the copies to be inserted in the water bill. This includes a bitly, QR code, deadline, and contact info.

- a. For the paper surveys, Alan, Dan & Courtney said they would print them up. It will be one page, double-sided, and distributed at municipal sites - Library, Senior Center, Town Hall, fall Town Meeting. Some members would like to share outside of municipal sites, including churches, which was approved by the Select Board. Concern about separation of church and state. However, the \$ to stabilize wouldn't be coming from town \$, and the town also approved \$ for the church steeple recently.

- i. Alan said that he would arrange to have a table at Town Meeting to give out the survey.

4. The Committee also will schedule a Forum to discuss the building and the need to stabilize it ASAP. Scheduling the forum before the Spring Town Meeting will be the goal. November 14 was suggested as a possible Forum date. Courtney to contact the senior center for room availability. It will be a hybrid meeting, both on Zoom and in person.

5. The next meeting of the Committee will be October 17, 6:30 at the Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Holstein