

Elementary School Building Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 7:30AM, <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/83769037557>

Present: Paul Bockelman, Diane Chamberlain, Dwayne Chamble, Anthony Delaney, Allison Estes, Benjamin Herrington, Sean Mangano, Phoebe Merriam, Michael Morris, Rupert Roy-Clark, Jonathan Salvon, Cathy Schoen, Stephen Schreiber

Not Present: none

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/81880139490>

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Bockelman called the meeting to order at 7:35am, conducted via remote participation pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL ch. 30A §18. Each member of the Committee affirmed by roll call his or her ability to hear and be heard in the meeting and made an introduction. The meeting was recorded for subsequent posting on the Town website.

Mr. Chamble was not present at the start of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Irene Dujovne, former member of the Fort River School Building Committee, urged the Committee to make the recording public. Mr. Delaney said that he would do so.

3. Elect Chair and Vice-chair

Mr. Bockelman asked how many people were sworn in. Ms. Schoen, Ms. Estes, and Mr. Harrington indicated that they were not. Mr. Bockelman proposed that the votes for chair and vice-chair be tabled until entire committee sworn in. The Committee consented.

4. Discuss Committee Charge

Dr. Morris conducted a walk-through of the MSBA process as depicted on www.massschoolbuildings.org. MSBA is funded by tax dollars, but the funding is in limbo during the current pandemic. Dr. Morris acknowledged Messrs. Roy-Clark and Harrington for helping create and the School Committee and Town Council for supporting the statement of interest, allowing Amherst's acceptance into the highly competitive program. The Committee is currently at the step "forming a project team." An owner's project manager (OPM) and architects will be hired and will conduct a feasibility study, taking into account enrollment, regulations, and needs, bringing multiple options to the table. The next step is schematic design, which chooses one option and creates a clearer design.

Ms. Schoen asked about the timing of these steps. Dr. Morris said that typically forming the project team is a proposal process. From eligibility period to schematic design is usually about two years. The MSBA also has a say at each step. Construction usually takes about 1.5 years.

Mr. Chamble joined the meeting by 7:55am and introduced himself.

Mr. Bockelman explained that the Committee is structured to fulfill the occupational roles set out by the MSBA. An OPM will guide the Committee through the process once hired.

5. Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed future meetings. The Committee reached consensus that 7:30am works best for most members, including school staff that cannot attend meetings during the workday. Wednesday, November 18th was set as the next meeting.

6. Future Planning

Dr. Morris said that enrollment projections should be available for the next meeting. Dr. Mangano asked if it was too early to begin drafting a Request for Services for OPM; Dr. Morris believed that it was.

Ms. Schoen asked if previous work on the Wildwood and Fort River sites could be incorporated into the new building process. Dr. Morris said that MSBA would not fund redoing any work on the Wildwood site to which they had already contributed. Mr. Salvon said that borings and site investigations should still prove valuable; MSBA is likely to require the design to be completely redone.

Ms. Chamberlain asked if there was any preliminary interest in being chair. Ms. Estes requested a review of the chair's duties. Mr. Bockelman said that he would provide.

7. Items Not Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours before the Meeting

There were no items.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11am.