

Elementary School Building Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/84696797488>

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

Members Absent: None

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7:30am

1. Call to Order

Ms. Schoen called the meeting to order at 7:30am, conducted via remote participation pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. ch. 30A §18. Each member of the Committee affirmed by roll call their ability to hear and be heard in the meeting. [The meeting was recorded for subsequent posting on the Town website.

2. Update on Enrollment

Dr. Morris said that Amherst is the first entrant in the MSBA's new computer system. Dr. Morris has had conversations with MSBA on the dual language program and how that affects enrollment figures. The Town Council has voted funding for a feasibility study, so the Town is awaiting is an enrollment letter and an invitation to a feasibility study from the MSBA. The MSBA board's next meeting is February 11, 2021.

3. List of Milestones

Dr. Morris outlined the major milestones of the school building process, highlighting the role of the Owner's Project Manager, who, once hired, will play a critical role in seeing the project through. Mr. Bockelman asked when the committee would procure an OPM. Mr. Delaney explained that the Town would need to wait for a go-ahead from the MSBA before procuring one, and detailed the Request for Services (RFS) process. Ms. Schoen asked if work on the RFS could begin. Mr. Delaney said that much work could be accomplished now and suggested a task force be formed to work on it.

Ms. Schoen asked about the timeline between selection of an OPM and an architect. Dr. Morris, Mr. Delaney, and Mr. Salvon estimated three months.

Dr. Morris suggested a future meeting to discuss and come to a consensus on core values.

Ms. Schoen spoke in favor of an innovative project website. Mr. Bockelman asked about the model school program. Dr. Morris said that the program had been moribund but is being

revived; the challenge for Amherst will be finding a model school that fits the net zero bylaw. Mr. Schreiber cautioned against the model school program.

Ms. Chamberlain left the meeting at 8:03.

4. Meeting Schedule

The next meetings of the Committee will be January 13 and February 17 at 7:30am. The next meeting will include selection of the RFS subcommittee and discussion of core values.

5. Public Comment

Bruce Coldham, retired architect, asked where the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) falls in the list of milestones. Mr. Delaney said that the RFS will be developed before an OPM is hired. Mr. Coldham urged the committee to develop an OPR.

6. Items Not Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance

There were no items.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

Submitted by Anthony P. Delaney