



Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School

Greg Sheldon, *Chair*
Anna Eliot, *Vice Chair*
Halsey Platt, *Clerk*
Gary Green, *Member*
Alison Manugian, *Member*
Becky Pine, *Member*
Lynwood V. Prest, *Member*

Public Engagement Subcommittee

Anna Eliot
Alison Manugian
Becky Pine

Research and Analysis Subcommittee

Gary Green
Halsey Platt
Lynwood V. Prest

Meeting Minutes for Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School

Meeting Date: March 9, 2015
Meeting Time: 5 p.m.
Meeting Location: Prescott School, 145 Main Street, Groton
Members: Becky Pine, Alison Manugian, Greg Sheldon, Gary Green, Lynwood Prest, Halsey Platt
Others: Jillian Lindquist, Alberta Erickson
Handouts: Agenda, February 23, 2015 draft minutes (full committee), March 3, 2015 draft minutes (public engagement subcommittee)

Gregory Sheldon opened the meeting at 5:06 pm. Greg Sheldon announced that Brian Bolton and David Melpignano each individually resigned from the Committee in the past week. Greg Sheldon stated that the Mark Haddad (Town Manager) has asked the Committee to consider whether the committee membership can remain at now existing seven member level or if the Board of Selectmen should attempt to appoint two more members to regain the nine member size. Whatever is decided, Greg Sheldon has been asked to provide Mark Haddad with a recommendation with respect to the Committee's preference.

Only two members remain on the Public Engagement Subcommittee so Greg Sheldon has asked if a member of the Research and Analysis Subcommittee would be willing to switch subcommittees. Becky Pine suggested that perhaps the work could continue with the assigned tasks and have groups of three or more meet in public meeting at need without attention to subcommittee membership. [Halsey Platt joined the meeting.]

Gary Green suggested that the subcommittee structure may not be a useful construct going forward. Greg Sheldon hoped that after each subcommittee does its work, then the full committee will cooperate on drafting a business model for intended uses. Gary Green suggested that there is a lot of work to be done and perhaps we should ask for additional members to be appointed so that the ambitious outreach effort can be accomplished within the Committee's desired timeline.

Val Prest reported that the very first steel handbook published in 1928 lists the type of steel beams used in the Prescott School building which will be helpful for determining stress loads (see AISC Manual developed from 1923 through 1927 and published in May, 1928). Val Prest commented that there needs to be overlapping attendance at each subgroup's meeting but that he is not the right person to assume that overlapping task. Halsey Platt suggested that the group members think about committee membership and see if there are individuals who might be helpful to add to the committee and who might be willing to join. After several weeks, then the Committee can report back to the Town Manager with its preferences.

Becky Pine said that Brian Bolton may still be willing to create the smartphone compatible website. With further discussion of the webpage presence for the Committee, the group decided to work with the existing municipal website page.

Although Greg Shelton has drafted a script, he stated that he is unclear how far along David Melpignano got with the Prescott School video. Greg Sheldon is operating under the assumption that the Prescott School video will be produced free of charge. Greg Sheldon plans to contact Bob Colman to follow up with the completion of the Prescott School video.

Alison Manugian volunteered to switch subcommittees in order to help balance the subcommittee composition and the group appreciated this flexibility. Alison digitized a square footage layout over a PDF and will work with Halsey Platt and the Superintendent to finish that layout draft of the School District's space requirements.

Alison Manugian moved to approve the February 23, 2015 draft minutes of the full Committee. Gary Green seconded and motion carried 6:0 (Anna Eliot absent).

The group discussed the length of the Google form and whether it should be shortened. Halsey Platt suggested that this Google form seems to be more of a use application than a survey. With that perspective, then the group decided to keep the Google form as is. If a use group finds the application too onerous to complete, then this may be an indication of their level of interest in using the space. When thinking of a Town Meeting presentation, Halsey Platt commented that having data on potential use of the building will be very important so this data needs to be collected. The Google form can be shared starting now. Google form link will be added to Committee webpage.

Public hearing date can be set at May 2nd since the Committee will present before Spring Town Meeting at the beginning of the Monday, April 27, 2015 start date. The group discussed whether May 9 – the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend – would be a good alternative. This May 9th date is a Lions Club sale and Garden Club plant sale occurring in the morning. If the timing is May 2nd, hold the Committee event from 10 am to 12 noon. If the timing is May 9th, then the Committee could hold its event from 12 noon to 2 pm.

Friend of Prescott School group may be willing to help this Committee with creation of two sandwich board advertisements for the Public Hearing. One advertisement can be placed at the Prescott Common and the other might be placed in front of the Prescott School.

Consensus of the group is to choose the May 2nd date. Alison Manugian will clear the use of the building with the School District. Becky Pine suggested that the open house could start at 9 am and the charette could start at 10 am. Becky Pine and Greg Sheldon will draft an outline of the charette presentation.

Halsey Platt reported for the research and analysis subcommittee work. If Nashoba Tech is contacted, then the outreach will need to happen soon so that the building structure investigation work can be undertaken with student help during their school year. Val Prest is continuing with his structural investigation analysis work which may dictate use. If existing safe load is 50 pounds per square foot, then regular office use would be suitable for the space, but a 100 pounds per square foot load capacity would allow for festivities to be scheduled. Val Prest is trying to find out what this building is capable of supporting as it is presently built.

On March 30, 2015, the Committee will present to the Board of Selectmen with Greg Sheldon as the main spokesperson. Greg Sheldon invited all Committee members to attend and speak up as they care to regarding matters raised in that meeting. Becky Pine stated that she viewed the Committee's vision as a desire to keep the Prescott School building intact, in municipal ownership and with an exploration of community uses. Gary Green prefers sticking to the stated charge of finding a long term sustainable plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Next meetings:

March 16, 2015 (research and analysis subcommittee)
March 23, 2015 5 pm (full Committee)
March 30, 2015 presentation to Board of Selectmen (full Committee)

Notes by Fran Stanley