



Town Manager
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TOWN OF GROTON

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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*

Meeting Minutes for the Research and Analysis Subcommittee

Date: May 11, 2015
Subcommittee members: Halsey Platt, Gary Green
Others: Greg Sheldon
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Selectmen's Meeting Room, 173 Main Street

Halsey Platt called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Halsey Platt explained that he has met with the Friends of Prescott group and divvied up assignments for people to submit town business model data that might suggest a viable economic plan for the future operation of a renovated Prescott School building. In addition to previously listed municipal buildings, Mary Jennings is going to write up the School District's Peter Twomey Youth Center. This program is run out of Groton Dunstable Regional School District site and provides before and after school child care and activities. The Peter Twomey Center receives its space rent free from the School District, but returns approximately \$75,000 back to the District annually. Halsey Platt has asked volunteers to turn in their work product by May 25, 2015.

On the subject of floor loading limitations, Halsey Platt offered that he hoped there will not be any. He is setting up a time to walk through the building with Lynwood Prest. They will cut holes and investigate as needed to determine the existing structural support.

Referencing the May 2, 2015 event, Greg Sheldon commented that there may have been about thirty (30) ideas for use suggested in addition to the twenty-five (25) or so ideas already listed on the boards at the head of the meeting room. The group discussed recent input received at the May 2, 2015 open house and public meeting and decided to try to collect input from younger generation. To gather that input, a committee member might set up a table at Cow Pond ball fields or address a Parent Teachers Association meeting at the School District.

Greg Sheldon suggested that there could be a possible recreational repurposing for the Prescott School. As one resident commented to him, it may be that much of the arts, community and recreation uses could be organized under a recreational umbrella.

Gary Green commented that the problem is not to come up with an operating model. Instead, the problem is coming up with the amount of money need to restore the building. The group discussed whether future maintenance costs would be built into the operating budget for the building. Halsey Platt asked about determining a use model in terms of day of the week and time of use. He referenced Edward Tuftee's work on visual representations of data. Greg Sheldon said that the Committee would have to figure out the right mix for the building. The Mass Municipal Association may have useful information. The group discussed the three categories -- enterprise fund, revolving fund and municipal department -- that were the choices identified by the consultant hired to evaluate the Town owned country club.

Greg Sheldon stated that by summer he hopes that the full committee can start drafting the preliminary report which can later be turned into the final report. Greg Sheldon anticipates asking for an increase in full committee meeting frequency with an end to the subcommittee work so that the full group can engage in the project analysis.

Meeting adjourned at 9 am. Notes by Fran Stanley.