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**Municipal Building  
Committee for  
Prescott School**

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

## **Meeting Minutes of the Public Engagement Subcommittee**

Date: May 12, 2015  
Subcommittee members: Alison Manugian, Becky Pine, Anna Eliot  
Others: Lynwood Prest, Greg Sheldon  
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Selectmen's Meeting Room, 173 Main Street  
Handouts: Agenda, Chart of May 2nd Use Preference (by category and by weighted response)

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Becky Pine called the meeting called to order at 5:07 pm.

Invoices for committee spending on May 2<sup>nd</sup> event will be turned in to the Town Manager's office for processing. Invoices expected for banner, printing and Groton Herald print advertisements.

Becky Pine reviewed the May 2<sup>nd</sup> sign in sheets. There were 72 signatures, but it was known that committee members did not sign and neither did some Friends of Prescott School members sign. The total audience was probably in the mid-nineties. Greg Sheldon observed that 36 people spoke from the audience and 33 ideas were generated from the audience. Alison Manugian stated her concern that it is conceivable to have sequential Town Meeting votes that are essentially yes or no on a single idea and not have that process lead anywhere.

Greg Sheldon said that Matthew Frary noted to him that every other idea listed at the open house could be an activity run by a recreation department. Greg Sheldon expressed interest in reaching out to younger adult population than the older aged attendees at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> event. The outreach could look to groups of parent of young children who are involved in youth lacrosse and youth soccer at Cow Pond fields on Saturday mornings. The group discussed this matter and agreed to make additional efforts.

Becky Pine commented that a new resident to Groton approached her and expressed interest in working on the Prescott School project. That new resident has a stipend that could be used to fund her work on this community project. The group recalled Sarah Campbell's idea of the possible revenue stream that could come from leasing space to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to serve adults with disabilities such as autism. The Blackbird Café may want to move its Mill Run business to the lower level of the Prescott School. They would want to lease space which would create a revenue stream.

The group observed that if the gymnasium becomes meeting space, then it will probably stop being feasible for that room to be used for recreational activities.

The group considered next steps. Lynwood Prest recommended marking the load category for each identified use. Greg Sheldon recommended recategorizing some of the ideas into different groupings. Also, he is considering the feasible uses organized by building level.

Lynwood Prest offered his opinion that use groups would need to contribute financially. Alison Manugian commented that a renovation plan may recommend reinforcing the gymnasium floor, but it would be very expensive to beef up very many spaces within the existing old school house because reinforcing the floors would require major renovation. Alison Manugian volunteered to consolidate the input from paper and electronic based survey forms into a more useable form. Fran Stanley will email her the scanned PDF paper surveys and Alison Manugian already has access to the Google Forms data.

Anna Eliot will inventory the in-town available space. She is presently working on that assignment.

Looking at the weighed response sheet, the group agreed that uses which require 40 or 50 pounds per square foot of structural support could conceivably use the first and second floor. The gymnasium will probably have a 100 pound live load rating and the lower basement level will support any weight (not load dependent).

Anna Eliot leaves the meeting.

Greg Sheldon previewed his intention to end the subcommittee group work and instead accomplish the work of the committee through full committee meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley.