



Town Manager
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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

Date: May 18, 2015
Attending members: Greg Sheldon, Becky Pine, Anna Eliot, Halsey Platt, Gary Green, Alison Manugian
Others: Connie Sartini (Groton Herald), Ann Wortman, Alberta Erickson
Handouts: agenda, April 21, 2015 draft minutes, open house responses tallied on one-page sheet, four-page compilation of responses sorted by live load categories, April OML complaint by A. Manugian

Greg Sheldon called the meeting to order shortly after 5 pm.

Halsey Platt moved to approve the April 21, 2015 minutes as presented. Becky Pine seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Anna Eliot abstained. Gary Green, Lynwood Prest, Alison Manugian absent).

Greg Sheldon offered an update on recent developments. He noted that Jane Bouvier offered to have this committee appear on her cable broadcast show monthly as the committee's work progressed throughout the summer. Greg Sheldon explained that he is planning on having the subcommittees suspend or end their meetings so that work can be done by full committee in future meetings. Greg Sheldon thanked Alison Manugian for her work spent tabulating responses, categorizing uses by live load requirements as well as grouping uses by areas of the building that might accommodate those uses.

Greg Sheldon brought up the topic of the open meeting law complaint filed in April by committee member Alison Manugian. Becky Pine said that she was the key in the communication chain because Greg Sheldon and Becky Pine prepared the banner draft outside of a public meeting and then Becky Pine showed the banner work to Alison Manugian outside of a public meeting. Again, that sharing happened outside of a posted open meeting and could be construed as a serial deliberation that is in violation of the Open Meeting Law.

Becky Pine agreed that the complaint as written describes a violation that did occur. The consensus of the committee was that an Open Meeting Law violation did occur. Greg Sheldon observed that the violation was inadvertent. The Committee members agreed in conversation that they will seek to avoid future violations of the open meeting law. These minutes when approved will be publicly posted on the Town's website. The Committee's handling of the Open Meeting Law complaint will be communicated to the Town Clerk as well as the Attorney General's office. The group did not want to proceed with this outcome unless complainant Alison Manugian is satisfied with the proposed outcome. Fran Stanley will email proposed outcome to Alison Manugian and if she is satisfied, then the Attorney General's office will be notified of complaint's treatment as described above.

Becky Pine updated the group on her impressions of the May 2nd event and the noted that she had received positive feedback.

Halsey Platt described his subcommittee activities. Business model work will be completed soon (May 31 deadline). Of the list of business models, half were assigned to Committee members and half were assigned to willing members of the Friends of Prescott School group. Halsey Platt will examine the Prescott School building with Lynwood Prest to remove some of the present uncertainty that exists about building conditions. Halsey Platt is amenable to suspending research and analysis subcommittee work in favor of future focus on full committee meetings.

Anna Eliot has collected a list of Town municipal meeting spaces. She is acquiring information about the Groton Dunstable Regional School District meeting spaces and she is gathering more detail on the Groton Public Library meeting rooms.

Gary Green joined the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Greg Sheldon asked the group to look at the uses suggested in the May 2nd event with reference to Alison Manugian's handouts.

Discussion included thought that outreach to younger demographic of parents of young children would be beneficial as this group was underrepresented at the May 2nd event. Gary Green commented that such outreach might help with identifying uses, but it would certainly be valuable at Fall Town Meeting as residents could then recall that invitations to participate were extended and committee information was shared. Logistically, another email with an online survey could be sent out through the School District. To reach others, a GELD mailing could be planned. Halsey Platt recommended moving along with full committee work concurrently or in parallel with the extra outreach. The Committee's proposals may gain credibility by use of outreach. Greg Sheldon agreed that outreach offered the positive value of due process.

Halsey Platt will draft a two sided GELD draft survey to bring back to the Committee for its review. Greg Sheldon will investigate the GELD process and whether the Town will pay for the several hundred dollar charge needed to get outside flyers inserted into GELD monthly bills.

Anna Eliot commented that she dislikes the weighting method employed in the May 2nd survey of preferred uses. She saw some attendees using bullet voting to emphasize their first choice so that the survey results do not register the May 2nd participants' relative interest and openness to a variety of use ideas.

Greg Sheldon proposes meeting weekly for the next six weeks (through June) as a full committee. This work would be to match business models with the vision and crunch numbers. May 28th (after 7:30 pm), June 9th (7 pm on) and 23th are possible meeting dates. Fran Stanley will email meeting dates to Lynwood Prest.

Alison Manugian joined the meeting. Fran Stanley shared report on Committee's handling of the open meeting law complaint and Alison Manugian was satisfied with the Committee's actions.

Ann Wortman suggested that the Master Plan be reviewed to see if there is any support expressed in the Master Plan for Prescott School re-use there.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley.