

**Capital Planning Committee
School Research Subcommittee
January 10, 2022
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom**

Voting Members Present: Jason Malinowski (Chair), Kathy Cook, and Keturah Martin

Non-Voting Members Present: Greg Martineau and Keith Lavoie (Mr. Lavoie experienced technical difficulties and was absent off and on at various points in time)

At 10:39 a.m., Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order

Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2021 and December 22, 2021

Mr. Malinowski asked if there were any proposed edits to the December 21, 2021 and December 22, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments on the draft minutes.

Mr. Malinowski moved to accept the meeting minutes from December 21, 2021 and December 22, 2021. Ms. Martin seconded.

Roll Call Vote (3-0): Cook, aye; Martin, aye; Malinowski, aye.

Superintendent's Update - MSBA SOI Neary School

Mr. Martineau reported that there was no new news from the MSBA regarding the Neary Statement of Interest. Mr. Martineau also provided clarification regarding the MSBA process in a neighboring town (Hopkinton) and that they are substantially further along in the MSBA partnership process than Southborough. Mr. Malinowski reported that Town Meeting will occur no earlier than the end of April 2022. The group discussed that there is already a placeholder article in the draft warrant relating to the Neary SOI.

Chair's Update - Update on Town Space Needs Study

Mr. Malinowski reported that the Capital Planning Committee is tentatively planning on a public meeting on January 20, 2022 to hear from the space planning designer on the results of their analysis, including how Woodward would work to meet the Town's space needs. The presentation will focus on whether using Woodward could actually work for the Town if the School Committee decided to decommission it as a school. The presentation will also cover whether using the Town's existing infrastructure would work for the Town's space needs.

Review of MSBA Cost Analysis

Ms. Cook has not yet been able to connect with Jon Lemioux from Vertex, who was hired to provide insight into the pros and cons of working with MSBA. She expects to be able to connect with him soon and will email the results of the analysis to the Subcommittee members once available. Ms. Cook noted that it will be helpful to hear whether Mr. Martineau and Mr. Lavoie have any feedback given their prior experience with MSBA. The group discussed scheduling a further meeting to discuss this topic once more information is available. Ms. Cook also will connect with the Town finance department for information to incorporate regarding financing of renovation/new construction. Mr. Malinowski stated that he is gathering information regarding cost of repurposing Town buildings, as well as the cost of building a community center to handle those needs, such as recreation and senior center.

Review and Possible Vote on Components of Final Report for Special School Committee Meeting

Mr. Malinowski reported that he has started preparing a presentation for the School Committee and is looking for direction regarding how detailed the live presentation should be. Ms. Martin commented that given that there likely will be public interest in the topic, it may be worthwhile to include background information about what the Subcommittee has done so far. The group discussed that it would likely be helpful to both the School Committee members and the public to include a recap of the information relied upon by the Subcommittee in reaching its conclusions and recommendation to date. Mr. Martineau suggested providing an organized online space where people could go to find all of the meetings, minutes, reports and supporting information.

Mr. Malinowski raised the issue of next steps given that the Subcommittee has fulfilled its charge. Mr. Malinowski noted that regardless of MSBA's decision, it is clear that if Neary continues as a school, it will need substantial work in one form or another. Mr. Malinowski suggested proposing to the School Committee that a formal Building Committee be created. Mr. Malinowski noted that it took months to form a Building Committee for the Public Safety Complex, which caused unnecessary delay, and also that it would include various members of the community, which would provide a wide range of expertise and input. The group discussed the idea and ultimately agreed that it was a good next step.

The group discussed what the Subcommittee might do to educate the community about what the Town and Schools are considering proposing. Mr. Martineau recommended that the Subcommittee's presentation to the School Committee occur at the February 9th meeting. All members agreed that that timing made sense. The group discussed issuing a short notice to the public regarding the February 9th meeting.

Mr. Malinowski noted that he would circulate a draft presentation and members could bring their comments or changes to the next Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Martineau followed up about the idea of where to post online all of the related materials for public access. Mr. Malinowski stated that he would investigate the best way to do that after this meeting.

Mr. Malinowski stated that he obtained official data from the Town Clerk that as of December 1, 2021, there were 101 births in Southborough in 2021. Data from other counties regarding Southborough births is delayed by a couple of months, so that number may increase. The RLS study had estimated 88 live births for 2021. The RLS report will be updated as this information continues to become available.

The group decided to schedule its next meeting for January 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

None

Other business that may properly come before the Committee

None

Adjournment

At 11:31 a.m., Mr. Malinowski made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Martin seconded.

Roll Call Vote (3-0): Cook, aye; Martin, aye; Malinowski, aye.

Minutes submitted by: Keturah Martin

Documents Referenced During Meeting:

- 1) Draft Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2021 and December 22, 2021