

Town of North Stonington

School Building Repurposing Committee Regular Meeting (Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen)

Monday, June 1, 2020 - 8:00pm by Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Toulia Balestracci at 8:03 pm. In attendance were T. Balestracci, G. Annino, Vice Chair, E. Boissevain, Sec'y, DJ Noyes and M. Anderson. W. Mathwich was absent. Also present were all three members of the Board of Selectmen, Mike Urgo, Nita Kincaid and Bob Carlson as well as several community members.

There were no Public Comments.

There were two additions to the agenda: T. Balestracci moved to add a discussion of a meeting time change. It was seconded by G. Annino and motion passed unanimously. Secondly, a motion was made by DJ Noyes, seconded by E. Boissevain to discuss his suggestion that he and Gary Annino put together a document to capture ongoing investment costs and deferred investment costs on the former school buildings. The motion passed and these items were added to the agenda.

On the agenda item of State Trooper and Voting at old MS/HS Media Center, Selectman Urgo explained that while he would normally like to wait for a committee to finish their job, in the case of voting, he moved forward due to the pandemic and the need for a more suitable polling place that would conform to new criteria. The process regarding the Troopers was different. The idea was that the move would make their office accessible and would have a presence at the schools. He is still talking to the BOE Chair and will bring the discussion to the other two selectmen. The move is still being considered. M. Anderson reminded Mr. Urgo that he must talk with the Library Board of Trustees before making this decision. In relation to the School Repurposing Committee, the First Selectman stated that their charge was basically to look at potential uses for the two school wings ideally where someone else would invest.

A motion was made by G. Annino, seconded by DJ Noyes to accept the minutes of the May 18 Regular Meeting and the 5/26 Special Meeting with no changes.

Agenda Item #6 Scorecard was discussed in detail by members of the Committee and members of the BOS. The results shown were not to be construed as the work product of the Committee; it was meant to provide a framework to which committee members could react and restructure at will. Among topics discussed were the costs of maintenance and capital issues and the difficulty of severing utilities if needed. The intentions of the Library Board are very important at this time. That Board is to meet this week on the subject so that the Committee and the BOS have some sort of position from the Library as to the spirit of the deed restriction. The Selectmen suggested a preference to keep the Town Hall in the Village. Housing is a need and there is city water and sewer, but not all of the Selectmen would support that route. G. Annino mentioned that in looking for a tenant, the process would be limited by the lack

of A/C. He also noted that even though environmental laws are less stringent for private use, we could still be accountable for those expenses.

Next item was the time change for meetings. Motion was made by G. Annino, seconded by E. Boissevain that further meetings will be the first and third Monday evenings at 8 pm. Motion passed.

A motion was made by DJ Noyes, seconded by G. Annino to approve creating a document to capture capital investment costs on the former schools as well as an ongoing investment list and deferred investment. The motion passed unanimously.

The School Repurposing Committee next meeting is June 15 at 8 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by G. Annino, seconded by E. Boissevain. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.