

Town of North Stonington
School Repurposing Committee Regular Meeting
June 15, 2020 by Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Toulia Balestracci, at 8:01pm.

Members present were T. Balestracci, Chair, E. Boissevain, Sec'y, DJ Noyes and M. Anderson. Also in attendance was Selectman Nita Kincaid.

In Public Comments, Ms. Kincaid asked if we would hear from the Library Board of Trustees this evening.

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 1, 2020 were accepted with one change: M. Anderson added that she reminded Selectman Uργο to check with the Library Board before moving the troopers into the complex.

Regarding item 5, update of capital and maintenance costs, DJ Noyes listed several areas where repairs or upkeep is needed: ongoing parking lot maintenance, old trees to come down, repointing/bricks falling/mortar needed, some windows rotted, wood exposed, (may be contamination), down spouts, holes in soffits, birds nesting, possible plumbing, painting needed. His point was that it is not just the cost of running the buildings; it is delayed maintenance and capital costs and would have to be in someone's budget.

G. Annino joined the meeting.

Item 6, Rental Options was discussed. There are other school systems in the area that may need classroom space in order to open schools in the fall due to Covid 19 requirements, as well as our own school system. The uncertainty of this possible development was debated with some members feeling our committee cannot work with this and other unknowns, and others feeling that we can accommodate this unanticipated development in our report. It was noted that the BOE at this time has not deemed the schools as surplus.

Discussion of the June 23 joint meeting with the BOS took place. As was stated at the meeting, the Library Board did meet and had a robust discussion about the deed restriction. According to M. Anderson, a vote will be taken on June 17 on this topic. G. Annino would like to know what the BOE plans are for the ancillary uses, such as the greenhouse, chickens, etc. He has not received an answer to that question yet.

Item 8, Scorecard: The Chair and Vice Chair asked that each member of this committee look at the scorecard and make their choices known in order to get to common ground. We will have a special meeting on June 29 with only this one item on the agenda, and will ask the BOS to wait until then for our update. These meeting dates will be confirmed by the Chair.

Motion was made to adjourn by G. Annino, seconded by M. Anderson. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.