

DRAFT MINUTES  
GROTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL REUSE TASK FORCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING, ROOM C8

January 23, 2012

Page 1

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Chair Catherine Kolnaski.

I. ROLL CALL

Members present were Janet Downs, Marian Galbraith, Mary Kelly, Catherine Kolnaski and Ralph Whitney. A quorum of members was present.

Absent were Peter Ganacoplos, Bill Hart, Dana Parfitt, Bob Peruzzotti and Archie Swindell.

Also present was Town Manager Mark Oefinger.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Galbraith, seconded by Ms. Kelly.

Vote on approval of the minutes carried unanimously.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Review of Scenarios

Ms. Galbraith reviewed current use of the building by local firefighters, police and LEPC.

Ms. Kelly raised a concern about the acceptable level of change to the character of the neighborhood.

It was decided that demolishing the building or subdividing the property for residential lots would cause an unacceptable level of change. It would also be risky to sell the property without any restrictions on its use. It was agreed that the report will make clear that these three scenarios are not recommended by the task force.

2. Recommendations to Town Council

Members discussed recommending a historic/institutional reuse amendment.

Ms. Kelly feels that "mothballing" the building would be a mistake.

Mr. Oefinger responded that the building is not being abandoned; maintenance is being done, and any recommendation to "mothball" would not be for an indefinite period, but would most likely be until a specific use is found or the economy takes a favorable turn.

The Town Manager added that the recommendations could be two-fold. The first layer of recommendations could incorporate what has been learned as well as long-term goals for the property. A second series of recommendations would include what should be done with the property in the immediate future until those goals can be realized.

Further discussion centered around specific recommendations and incorporated elements of Ms. Downs' narrative as well as comments made by Ms. Galbraith. Recommendations in the report to the Town Council should include: seeking the necessary zone change, then marketing the property for professional offices or residential condominiums; marketing for educational use (no zone change required).

Ms. Downs will prepare a draft report to the Town Council for the next meeting.

3. Other

There was consensus that the next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday February 6, 2012 in Council Chambers at the City Municipal Building.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Whitney, seconded by Ms. Downs and so voted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Submitted by

Janet Downs, Task Force member