



Town of Groton - Public Works

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Meeting Minutes

Permanent School Building Committee

Chairman Rick J. Norris, Vice-Chairman Enrico DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, W. Gordon Lange, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison, and John Webster.

Thursday, January 20, 2005

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. Vice-Chairman DeMatto arrived at 7:10 pm.

Members Present: Chairman Rick J. Norris, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Vice-Chairman Rick DeMatto, Gordon Lange, Richard Monteiro and John Webster

Members Absent: Robert Morrison

Staff: Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, Wes Greenleaf, Director of School Buildings and Grounds, Lori Hammett, Project Management Specialist and Colleen Quattromani, Recorder.

Also present: Dave Miner, RTM Representative.

2. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

(a) Doug Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz, State Coordinator for the New England Antiquities Research Association, spoke with the PSBC about what he believes are Native American rock formations on the "King" property. Mr. Schwartz admits the use of stone in ancient Native American work is a matter of dispute among archeologists, but feels historical accounts of the site prove that the stone wall on the "King" property was constructed by Native Americans and not Colonials. A handout with excerpts of these old accounts was distributed to the Committee. The stone wall is not in danger of being destroyed by the construction of the new school but Mr. Schwartz feels the site must be safe guarded. A disc with GPS information will be forwarded to the Town and JCJ so that the site can be handled with care during the school construction.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

P-2005-0001 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman DeMatto, seconded by Lange, the meeting minutes of January 6, 2004 were approved as written.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)

(a) PSBC Members

Several of the Committee members received a newsletter from Rebuild Connecticut - Partnership Initiatives from the State of Connecticut. There is another High Performance Schools seminar on April 14, 2005 which members may attend.

(b) Department of Public Works Staff

Mr. Schneider reported that the first round of interviews for the Construction Manager as Advisor had been completed. The two firms being considered, Gilbane and O & G, were asked to submit a fee schedule and answers to six questions developed by the selection committee by January 20th before returning for a second interview on January 21st. Vice-Chairman DeMatto, Mr. Lange and Mr. Webster will attend these interviews. Mr. Schneider said that a completed reference check will be conducted on the firm finally selected to ensure the best possible team is assembled for the school construction project. Once the Construction Management firm is selected a detailed

fee negotiation will be done.

The Committee was reminded that the Environmental Services interviews were being held January 24th and 25th. Mr. Lange, Mr. Austin-LaFrance and Mr. Webster will sit in on these interviews.

(c) Board of Education Staff

Mr. Greenleaf reported meetings with the administration of the High School and elementary schools, to flush out the programs and assemble information for the architect, JCJ, to use in their designs. There was also a meeting with State Legislators to remind the local representatives to be watchful of the State commitments to Groton. There is a looming deficit in the State budget but Mr. Greenleaf feels the grants for the High School and Freeman Hathaway are high ranked and should not be in danger of being cut.

(d) Jeter, Cook & Jepson

Mr. Smolley, Senior Associate, Jeter, Cook & Jepson (JCJ), said there have been many conversations between JCJ and Mr. Greenleaf and Mr. Schneider concerning the project.

The PSBC was reminded of the upcoming site walks with State Archaeologist, Nicholas Bellantoni, on January 31st. Mr. Schultz of JCJ will conduct the walks of all three building sites, beginning at 1:00 pm at the "King" property and continuing onto Freeman Hathaway and finally the High School.

JCJ has proposals back on some of the subsurface investigation work (borings, soil, etc) to be done as soon as it is determined where the schools will fit on the building sites. Proposals have also been received for the property surveys. The surveyors should be on site in about week conducting topographical surveys to give JCJ a basis to start with planning the site layouts.

JCJ has been working with the construction guidelines provided by the PSBC as well as the Massachusetts Tech site pointed out by Chairman Norris and want to come back with some suggested guidelines for the PSBC to consider and adopt as a general guideline as the project moves forward.

The next two meetings of the PSBC will have a technical flavor. At the PSBC meeting on February 3rd, JCJ plans to bring the HVAC consultant to have a general talk about the types of systems that we might want to consider for the buildings. On February 17th, JCJ will discuss the electrical, security and technical systems. The goal of the discussions is to make the design of these systems a part of the educational program being developed. Decisions do not have to be made, we just need to know what is available to the project.

JCJ will be looking at the schools part by part to make sure what is built works with what the Town already has and will work in the next phases of the school construction project as well. JCJ and Groton educators stress the need for parity or equal opportunities in education at each of the schools.

5. RECEIPT OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) MODEL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

P-2004-0009 Contemporary School Building Projects

Discussion on review of contemporary school building projects

JCJ should be able to make suggestions on tours for the PSBC to take sometime in March when schematics for the buildings have been developed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.