



Town of Groton - Public Works

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Public Works
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Meeting Minutes

Permanent School Building Committee

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

Thursday, January 19, 2006

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Rick DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison and John Webster

Members Absent: David Russell

W. Gordon Lange

Staff: Rick Norris, Project Manager-School Construction, Wes Greenleaf, Director of School Buildings & Grounds, Colleen Quattromani, Recorder.

Also present: David Miner, RTM Representative, Beverly Washington, Board of Education Chairperson and Catherine Kolnaski, Town Councillor.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Mr. LaFrance arrived at 7:10 pm.

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

Syma Ebbin, 51 Jupiter Point Rd., Groton, spoke to the PSBC about geothermal heat which she hoped could be incorporated into the construction of the two new elementary schools. Ms. Ebbin submitted articles supporting the use of geothermal technology in schools to the PSBC at the conclusion of her talk.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 5, 2006

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro and seconded by Mr. Webster to accept the PSBC minutes of January 5th as written. The motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)

(a) PSBC Members

None.

(b) Department of Public Works Staff

Mr. Norris attended the site walk of the Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School and Northeast Academy Elementary School sites with the Inland/Wetlands Agency. There are a few issues that need to be addressed concerning wetlands on the site.

There is a staff review scheduled for January 24th for the Northeast Academy Elementary School and the permit for the site could be issued on February 8th. The variances for Northeast were approved with a stipulation that the Hartung property be buffered from the school.

Public Works is sending out public hearing notices for abutting property owners of the Catherine Kolnaski site as the Inland/Wetlands Agency determined that the construction will have a

significant or possible impact on the area. A public hearing has been scheduled for February 8th.

The site application for Fitch High School site plan data table needs to be corrected before it is submitted, the two elementary school applications should be submitted on January 23rd.

Mr. Norris met with Aquarion on the water issue for Northeast Academy Elementary School and is waiting to see a water study conducted by Tighe & Bond before meeting again with the Fire Marshall. Currently the area does not have a big enough water supply to support emergency services at the school. Options to the current supply system are being considered.

PARE Engineering is working on a grading plan for the Merritt property. When it is delivered Gilbane will look at it to develop a cost estimate for project.

Mr. Norris is to speak with the City of Groton Conservation Commission sometime in March and give them a presentation on the Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School project.

(c) Board of Education Staff

Mr. Greenleaf reported finishing the utility hookup for the construction office trailer on the Fitch High School site.

The JCJ Design Development Report to the Town Council and Board of Education is available for public viewing on the Board of Education website and the Town of Groton website.

Mr. Greenleaf addressed a question asked by Vice-Chairman Lange about the absence of computer rooms at the elementary schools. The computer room off of the Library has been converted to a classroom because of budgetary concerns. Also with the wireless technology planned, computers became available for the individual classrooms.

Mr. Greenleaf has received numerous calls regarding the closure of the Noank Elementary School and said that the closing of the Noank School has always been a part of the result of the school building project. This has been discussed at PTO meetings all the way through the project and the school will close unless something changes with the Town demographics. The Board of Education has begun working on Phase II of the project and presented a proposal to the Facilities Committee a week ago.

Mr. Greenleaf has been working on the interior finishes for the High School and the elementary schools. At Fitch High School the use of the school colors is being proposed and Mr. Greenleaf would like to see two separate schemes for the elementary schools so that they each can have their own character.

Mr. Greenleaf and the Director of Food Services met with Crabtree & McGraft and is pleased with the design for the kitchens at the elementary schools. The design has been passed on to Ledge Light Health District for their review.

There was a meeting with the technology consultant that was still in progress at the start of the PSBC meeting this evening. Right now the wiring is being considered and then the focus will be on phase II of the technology design which is the type of equipment. The actual equipment will be purchased as late as possible so that the newest technology is available.

(d) JCJ Architecture

Mr. Ceella, Principal, JCJ Architecture said that his firm was gathering documentation and getting the time table together for the school building project approvals by the state. Mr. Ceella with agreement from Mr. Manning of Gilbane Building, spoke of the use of an independent reviewer for the projects as BSF is backed up and might take more than 30 days to review Groton's projects. Once the projects have approval Mr. Ceella hopes to review the schedule of

alternatives for the projects with the Committee.

Mr. Cerella concluded his comments to the PSBC with a thank you to Mr. Greenleaf for preparing the Board of Education so well for JCJ's presentation of the Design Development Report.

(e) Gilbane Building Company

Mr. Manning, Project Executive, Gilbane Building Company, told the Committee that he is now in residence at the Fitch High School construction site. While a few items remain to be done in Stonington, he is essentially on the job for the Groton School Building Project full time. Review of the Division 0's with staff and JCJ is almost complete and the documents should go to the attorney's within two weeks. Work on the Division 1's continue and the development of a Hygiene Plan for Fitch High School has been initiated. Mr. Manning participated in the Inland/Wetlands walk on the Kolnaski and Northeast site and is working on a strategy for construction access to the site.

Gilbane is looking into FAA permit requirements, because of the proximity to the Groton Airport and because of the cranes which will be used in the projects. Permits will be needed both for the permanent structure as well as the temporary construction sites.

Mr. Manning will be putting together the bid package for the abatement at the Freeman Hathaway building now that the specifications are available from URS. All that is needed to complete them is the Division 0's.

Finally, Mr. Manning told the Committee that he has been approached by a Fitch graduate who is currently attending Virginia Tech College about an internship with the school building project this summer. He will keep the Committee informed on the outcome of their discussions.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman DeMatto confirmed the next meeting date for the PSBC will be the regular meeting of February 2, 2006.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) School Building Project Presentations

In discussions on presentations for the school building project, Mr. LaFrance suggested talking with the PTO heads at the various schools, saying that these were the most effective communicators available for the project. Mr. Miner, RTM Representative, suggested that an invitation be issued to the RTM for the same presentation. The Committee decided that the presentations should take place after the plans are approved by the State and once the parking issues for Fitch High school are answered.

b) Construction Progress Publicity Procedures

In discussions on developing construction progress publicity procedures it was suggested that flyers and other notices be placed at the schools to get students and therefore parents involved in the projects. Mr. Manning said Stonington High School's announcement system during the recent construction project there was an effective means of communication. Fitch High School has morning announcements which can similarly be used to relay information on the project status. The Public Works office is acquiring a digital camera to take photos to record construction progress.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman DeMatto informed the Committee that he will not be able to attend the PSBC meeting on February 16th as he will be out of town.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm