

**Ad-Hoc Academy Investigation Committee**  
**Academy School**  
**Meeting – April 27, 2012, 7:30 am**  
**Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2012

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 am April 27, 2012. In attendance were David Kadamus, Joe Beerbower, Matt Callahan, Kathy Rossini and Jon Pardo
2. Minutes from March 9, 2012 meeting were submitted and approved.
3. Discussion of Old Business was deferred to after presentation of New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Eric Dillner - Shoreline Arts Alliance, Guilford, CT

Eric Dillner, Director of the Shoreline Arts Alliance gave a presentation to the committee about his organization and their potential interest in the Academy School building. Shoreline Arts Alliance is a non-profit group that cultivates artistic activity on the shoreline of CT from Branford to Essex. The organization is one of six state recognized and funded arts councils in CT. The group helps CEO's of arts organizations (such as Goodspeed, Guilford Art Center) with information dissemination and peer counseling. The group has approximately 6000 followers receiving weekly email newsletter. The group is currently studying six potential sites along the shoreline (including Academy School) to create a multipurpose arts and cultural center. The facility would be home to the Shoreline Arts Alliance as well as providing space for other groups pursuing artistic or cultural endeavors. Potential uses would include theater, dance, visual arts and education. Shoreline Arts envisions that such a cultural center would provide a strong economic development boost both to the artistic community and the downtown businesses. While their plan is still preliminary, they envision utilizing the existing space at Academy School with only modest repairs and renovations to the structure. They do not envision needs for extra land from current ball fields for parking. The plan envisions a longer term phased development of the building with space being filled gradually. Shoreline Arts has indicated that they would like to work in conjunction with the Town, neighbors and business community to create a vibrant economic development project.

**OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

4. John Pardo spoke with Monsignor Conte of St. Margaret's Parish regarding possible use of their parking facility for potential Academy School Building developments. Potential concerns exist about the need for parking for weekend masses as well as for functions such as funerals during the week. However, any definitive agreement could only be

reached when a formal written proposal is presented to the parish and approved by its board of trustees.

5. David Kadamus had continued discussion via email with Ted Mallory of the Library Board. While the Library Board is committed to their present location, they are willing to participate in discussions and consider any ideas presented to them. It was also suggested that the new head librarian should tour the Academy School building.

6. Community Communication and Input.

The committee discussed the manner in which public participation and input could begin. It was decided that a good first step would be to invite elected town officials and other key decision makers to a meeting with the committee to discuss progress and obtain their input before a general public information session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.