

Special Meeting Minutes
Academy School Community Design Center
June 17, 2019
3:00 PM – Town Campus Room A
Subject to Approval

Members Present:

Chair: William Stableford
Catherine Flynn-Donovan
Dick Passero
Rosalyn Cama

Members Not Present:

John-Michael Parker

Others present:

Kathryn Hunter

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2019

Motion to approve: Catherine Flynn-Donovan

Second: Dick Passero

Vote: Motion was unanimously passed

2. Welcome representatives from the “neighbors” of Academy School for discussion of topics of mutual interest (3:00 – 4:00 PM):

--- John Lind, Chair, Madison Historic District Commission.

--- Doe Boyle, VP, and Carol Snow, Board Member, of Madison Historical Society.

--- Terry Roberts, President, and Gary Naegle, Board Member, of the Deacon John Grave House Foundation.

Doe Boyle, Board Member of Madison Historical Society: The MHS is already helping to establish preservation and a cultural identity for the Town of Madison through a \$170,000 Madison Historical Center Grant which will include an enhanced museum and site landscaping. The project has just gone to bid. Peter Clements set the project’s vision. Peter has plans to share if we are interested. The Madison Historical Society loves the idea of an integrated campus and the adaptive-reuse of the entry facing the common courtyard. This will assist in creating a gathering place for the National Green Historic Self Tours. The tours will utilize QR Codes within kiosks carefully placed around the historic district allowing visitors to tour 33 historic in town buildings including the Academy School. Bill and Dick will meet with Tod Bean at SHPO. The Good to Great Grant is available now. It was noted that the Library will have a history room also.

Terry Roberts , President and Gary Naegle, Board Member of the Deacon John Grave House Foundation, a non-profit, will not make proposals or form opinions, however they voiced an opinion on the development of the land or ball fields. Their opinion gives them a standing in Federal and State courts should a proposal for development adversely affect their historic site. They expressed support for the idea of a Community Center being part of the historic town district. They see a synergy in their partnership with the Madison Lyric Stage which provides interactive theater for small audiences and the Community Center could accommodate the need for a larger capacity. SHPO has funding for the arts and maybe there may be funding for the theater portion of Academy School for refurbishment. The refurbishment of the theater makes the Community Center development more relevant to their programming and preservation. They do have concern about residential development changing the character of the district.

John Lind, Chair of the Madison Historic District Commission, resident, taxpayer and architect in New Haven, expressed a vision for a C0-Complex of Historical Public Spaces with a connection back to the Center of Town as well as the Library district. He would like to see a common language of paving/ landscaping etc. He also suggested a secondary Academy Street entrance drop off. He is concerned that the entrance is not on the street. He has a concern about the project's cost and budget, however sees this project as a potential draw to town that will bring better town values. His historic opinion is from what is visible from a public way, not the interior reworkings. He is also concerned about parking. He does not like the covered walkway and the glass opening.

Al Goldberg: Do your organizations have any concerns to the concept or architecture about a Community Center?

All see as a benefit with enhanced parking. However it is not a goal to build miles of impervious pavement, so utilizing area overflow and public transportation is a plus to preserve bucolic nature of the district.

Public: This conversation about a community center is relevant to the charge of committee. It is consistent with the district that has been in place for over 200 years to keep this building in public service is in alignment with our past and future.

3. Consultation with Scot Erskine, Director of Madison Beach & Rec (4:00 PM): progress report on preparation of CIP application due July 1. Discussion of respective responsibilities.

Scott needs the Capital Improvement Program form to follow with insertion of Colliers and QA+M estimates, by July 1, 2019 to propose a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. CIP will then make recommendations. If accepted, then a full capital budget must go to referendum. Will then go to referendum in approximately May of 2020, likely to go with the School's proposed budget. 3-4 months prior to the referendum there will be the debates to support or reject. This group's charge is to gather facts, costs, and establish a program and look for the renovation.

Scott submits to town selectman and then to board of finance
October 15 BOF
Two public hearings
BOS and Planning and Zoning discuss and approve

4. Follow-up Discussion of our two-stage Public Information Session on June 12 at 3:00PM and 7:00PM

Positive feedback was received.

5. Discuss and Take Action re: estimating the number of future hours of consultation services needed from Colliers and QA+M Architects.

Will be presented to BOS.

6. Public comment
None.

7. Adjournment.
Request to adjourn made by Catherine Flynn-Donovan, seconded by Dick Passero.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosalyn Cama

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