



TOWN OF MADISON

CONNECTICUT

06443-2563

MEETING DATE: Thursday July 11, 2018

MEETING PLACE: Town Campus, Room A, 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Ad Hoc Academy Building Guidance Committee

Members Present: Sarah Barrett, Henry Griggs, Bob Hale, Kathryn Hunter, Tom Scarpati

Members Excused: Rob Card, Jerry Davis

Others Present: Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen; Lauren Rhines, First Selectman's Office

The inaugural meeting of the committee was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1) Public Comment.

None.

2) Introductions

The committee members present took a few minutes each to introduce themselves and to state their reasons for accepting the assignment.

Mr. Scarpati asked the members to outline any particular leanings they bring to the table regarding the committee's goals. Among the desirable elements cited by individual members were a) keeping the historic look of the building, especially the 1921 façade; b) holding the financial impact on taxpayers low while providing the best result in terms of value, c) maintaining the open space behind the building, and d) revitalizing the structure's use to make it once again a key part of the civic life of the Town.

3) Review of the charge to the committee.

Members reviewed a draft of the charge but there was some question as to whether the document in hand was the most recent version as adopted by the Selectmen. The correct charge will be circulated in advance of the next meeting. Mr. Griggs suggested that a

while many ideas could be considered leading up to the public opinion phase of the committee's work, the clear goal is always to come up with a recommendation that can pass at referendum.

There was consensus among the members present that even with an aggressive meeting schedule, it will be a big challenge to produce language for a November referendum. The wording of a ballot question would need to be ready by early September in order to meet statutory deadlines and that realistically the committee's work will likely continue past November.

Among the various tasks that will assigned to subcommittees will be a) assessing the building-only proposals that have been submitted for the project, which may include interviews with the individual developers, b) working with the Town's chosen public opinion firm to develop effective approaches to research that will lead to concrete, actionable results, and c) examining the impact of the structure's status as part of the Madison Green National Historic District. Mr. Griggs said he hoped those subcommittee assignments can be made next week after all of the members have met together.

Members were concerned about minute-taking for the committee. Asking a committee members to regularly take minutes would likely lead to less than full participation by that member in the ongoing discussion. Mr. Griggs said he would request some help from the Selectman, possible to include making audio recordings of the meetings.

4) Future meetings.

The discussion turned to scheduling of future meetings. The group arrived at a consensus that for the immediate future, weekly meetings will be advisable. To accommodate the work schedules of some members, the meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Mr. Griggs said he would work with Rob Card and Jerry Davis to find times when they are available for the next meeting and for a regular schedule of meetings.

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203.245.5603 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf -- 203.245.5638) or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.