

Town Planning/Building Committee for Salem School Renovation
October 6, 2009
Salem School
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Dinis Pimentel, Jim Choquette, Jenifer Lee, Monica McIntyre, Bill Weinschenker

ABSENT: Donald Bourdeau, Donna Leake, Horace Lindo, Stuart Gadbois, Chris LaRose, Mike Siebert

GUESTS: Steve Buck, Daniel Kung (arrived at 7:15 P.M.), Kevin Lyden (arrived at 7:27 P.M., left at 7:48 P.M.), Paul Petrone (left at 7:48 P.M.), Chuck Boos

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Dinis Pimentel, Chairman.

M/S/C (Choquette/Lee) to approve the September 8, 2009 minutes. Vote: Yes-4 No-0 Abstain-1 (M. McIntyre). Motion passed.

Item 2 of the agenda was tabled by D. Pimentel.

D. Pimentel- The waivers were not taken up by legislature. Ed Jutila called Bob Ross the night before the vote to say they would not include Salem's waivers. No Town projects without project numbers would be considered. Even towns with high level representatives were not considered.

Ed Jutila said that if Salem passed a referendum he may be able to revisit our waivers prior to next June.

D. Pimentel asked the committee "What next?"

-B. Weinschenker suggested the Town should have a referendum asking "Do you support a school renovation project?"

D. Pimentel asked if this is still a good project, and the consensus was yes.

The Town of Newtown has a project budget of \$115 million. Bids come in at \$160 million, and then re-bids come in at \$98 million.

D. Pimentel recommends that the First Selectman, members of the building committee, Chuck Boos, and Ed Jutila sit down to plan how to make this happen.

B. Weinschenker- Why do we think a referendum would pass now without waivers when in May we didn't think so?

D. Pimentel- School open houses were very productive for the school project- lots of great feedback and eventual "buy-in."

J. Lee- Information sheet being put into Lyme Times for the Congregational Church for little money. Maybe we could get info out that way.

S. Buck- Only information can be sent out by PAC within thirty days of referendum, plus no money has been raised yet.

J. Lee- There is still lots of misinformation out there in Town.

S. Buck- Now is a great time to okay this project. In another five years we will be deep in discussion about our high school partnership with East Lyme.

D. Pimentel- Next step: work with selectmen to get question out to town.

S. Buck- We now have time to not rush and properly educate the town.

D. Pimentel- "What can we take out of project" will be a question the town will ask.

-C. Boos- Take out renovate as new, or bus loop and "front" work.

-S. Buck- Bus loop is a safety issue and should not be taken out.

Building committee will continue to pursue this project. Next step will be small meetings with selectmen and Ed Jutila.

D. Pimentel will e-mail the committee a "frequently asked questions" sheet that was developed for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Next meeting date: October 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

M/S/C (Weinschenker/Lee) to adjourn. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Choquette
Vice Chairman

