

Approved Meeting Minutes

Middle School Building Committee Meeting

March 3, 2014 – 8:15 a.m.

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

18 Church Street, North Haven, CT

Committee Members in Attendance:

Goldie Adele, Michael Brandt (acting secretary) , Miriam Brody , Lou Coppola, Sr., Gary Johns (committee chairman), David Mikos, Bruce Morris , Walter Nester, Jr., Joseph Porto, Dyann Vissicchio (committee vice-chair)

Absent: Michelle Spader (committee secretary)

Others in Attendance:

Kristine Carling, Dr. Robert Cronin, Phil Diana, Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio, Phil Piazza, Ed Swinkoski, and Members of the Perkins-Eastman Project Team.

Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chairman, Gary Johns.

Motion made by Bruce Morris to approve the minutes from the February 19, 26 and 27 meetings. The motion was seconded by Goldie Adele and unanimously passed.

Chairman Johns welcomed Perkins Eastman as our partners on the project. He explained that the goal of today's meeting was to finalize the contract with Perkins Eastman and to develop a plan of action to be ready for the June vote and timely submission to the State.

Joe Costa expressed Perkins Eastman's appreciation to the Building Committee and its enthusiasm for the project. He explained that there was a lot of work to do to prepare for the June 17 vote. He summarized the three steps of the schedule – general, programming and design. They will schedule design workshops at the North Haven Middle School and meet with representatives from the Office of the Superintendent, the Administration, educators and Building Committee Members.

The group discussed the dates of upcoming meetings and the public involvement and the need for the Committee to meet more regularly than every two weeks. Fitz Morris requested two weeks to get more information from the Board of Education and input from the administrators and educators as well as input from the Committee members before presenting more refined designs to the Building Committee.

Attorney Donofrio explained that the law only requires a School Safety and Security Subcommittee, but he cautioned that every subcommittee established would require a quorum to approve actions and minutes to be taken and the subcommittee would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. He

advised that Building Committee members may attend the design workshops with Perkins Eastman but no more than five Building Committee Members can be present to avoid creating a quorum of the committee.

Attorney Donofrio continued that the estimated project schedule proposed by Perkins Eastman is tight, but there are no concerns about the time needed to get the approvals from the various town boards in the Schematic Design Phase. His concern is the OSF Review process set for two months because of the delays that would result from submission to the State. The State has permitted a third party review to be conducted in recognition of its inability to accomplish the OSF Review timely. The third party review option may be necessary to meet the deadline.

Attorney Donofrio reminded the Committee that we need to have a town meeting approval of the pre-referendum fees. The Board of Selectmen will have to call the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Morris. Joe Porto seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

The next meeting would be on March 17, 2014 at 8:15 at the Board of Education, 3rd Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Brandt
Acting Committee Secretary