

**Tisbury School Building Committee
Town of Tisbury
51 Spring Street
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568**

**Final Copy – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 6, 2019, 5:00 PM
Katherine Cornell Theater, 51 Spring St., Vineyard Haven, MA**

Members Present: James Rogers, Michael Watts, John Custer, Alice Robinson, Harold Chapdelaine, Rita Jeffers, Peter Gearhart, Rachel Orr

Absent: Reade Milne

Member Rogers: Marni agreed to potentially do minutes as long it fits in her schedule once we decide. Thank you all for coming to get started on this very important project.

Organization of committee:

Member Watts: The implication of voting a chair- it's not just getting business done. A lot of constituents and a lot of perception.

Member Rogers said the chair is responsible for getting information, posting agendas and keeping the meeting running. The Chair doesn't vote unless a tie so sometimes limiting. Member Chapdelaine stated that maybe they should define what the goals are first and then make a decision about the chair. Securing services of Marni would be a goal, she does a fantastic job. Member Watts stated the renovation-addition keeping with education plan. Must be Cost conscious and constraints of the town.

Member Orr stated they also follow what the town voted. Make sure stick to warrant article.

Committee decided to pass on designation of chair and revisit at the next meeting.

Proposed Meeting Times and Location:

Thursdays are bad for Marni. The all island school committee meets Thursdays also so not a good day. Do not want meeting to be before 4 pm so residents can attend. So how often, when, where.

Member Custer stated- Marni will be unavailable until mid-August.

**Motion to hold meetings at 5:00 PM on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
Vote Unanimous.**

Initial Goals and Objectives:

Member Rogers states the immediate need is to work with Town Administrator and Amy Tierney to get an RFP out asap. Jay can draft an RFP but we need objective of what we want the consultant to do. Member Custer said the town voted Money, but we need to get an OPM out.

The following questions were raised:

What is the design concept?

Do they want a capital improvement plan developed out of this? Yes

Are we trying to have something for Town meeting? Yes but ambitious. Maybe a STM would be a better option. If aiming for ATM then needs to be ready for the budget that is submitted in September/October.

What is the normal cycle of for RFP? 30-45 days

Can they have a draft of the RFP? Yes already being worked on.

Can they get a copy of the Original RFP? What was done last time? Yes

Member Rogers said based on joint meeting they want a deliverable that we can go back to the voters to with. Member Chapdelaine asked if they are going back with complete reno plan? Member Rogers stated, Yes. Member Chapdelaine then stated that unless the previous package is applicable would we not be underfunded? Member Rogers stated that both the TSC and BOS thought this would be enough if utilizing the previous package. Existing material done: measurements, square footage, condition of systems. Member Chapdelaine stated it should be used for the needs and the education plan and filtering out.

Goal: Member The addition renovation plan and meeting with the education plan without restrictions we probably have more flexibility to be successful.

FINCOM will have to be involved later on.

STM is a good option people would be able to focus and not feel rushed. Member Rogers feels it should be our goal to be prepared for ATM but need to educate people immediately, so they are prepared when vote comes up. Inform the community. We should have several public forums.

Can we post more than 48 hours in advance? Yes. It should be on the town calendar and school's website. Member Rogers stated he would have IT put it on the web for the calendar year, Member Jeffers stated there were a group of teachers who are going through the education plan page by page and happy to share it. We need to have the

mindset of what the education plan looks like.

The next meeting, they should go over the RFP would be and to look at the Education plan. Member Rogers agreed. Member Rogers asked that everyone come up with other ideas for funding sources. There are a lot of grants out there. Member Orr said there are a lot of bills to fund municipal infrastructure. A lot are possible. We could ask our state representatives to keep us in mind with those bills. Officially who should that come from? Member Robinson said it makes sense the selectmen because it is an overriding municipal funding request and they are the liaison between the town and the state. Member Rogers has no problem with that and he found one for renovating school playgrounds. Member Robinson asked if there are any ideas where funding could come from since it is almost a 100 year old bldg.? Member Chapdelaine state that with respect to that any building from before 1900 is considered historic. An owner can come out to them to seek out request the building to be designated as historical significance. You must be careful because if you get funds for one thing it sometimes excludes you from something else. Member Jeffers worries that if go that route it will not be done by spring, If get it deemed historic many doors will close. Member Rogers stated the only rational would be if it could open more funding. Member Chapdelaine stated he would reach out to see if there is funding available. Can start there. Member Rogers stated he was not sure the selectmen could do it anyway since the town owns it not the selectmen.

Member Watts stated they need to find alternative funding sources. Member Rogers suggested they should be looking at what the price will be for a project the town will support. Member Orr stated they need to know the demographics for when we are talking to people. Also consult with the Financial team for the town. Member Chapdelaine said they should start with the education plan and analyze space. 750 sq ft would have worked for class rooms but the MSBA wanted 950 squ ft. We need to look at space need, how that space can multi task. Make as small as possible while serving its purpose without compromising what is needed. Must have the numbers of what is needed vs what is wanted so we can present properly the choices to the community. To look at the work space needed and economically palatable to the town and building. We have to look at it as comprehensive project and whittle down if need be. Member Jeffers stated that the kindergarten class is double for next year. Have to be mindful. Member Gearhart stated it would be easier to start with a vacant lot or building than doing a building. full of kids. Member Rogers stated he had an idea that once they determine what the plan will be they buy a bunch of modular houses no petitions. Set them up on North end and then take them out and sell them off to affordable housing. Member Robinson asked that they do not get stuck on student numbers. One of reasons they have a challenge in space is because of services (education plan) we need to provide, not to do with the numbers. Member Watts stated that part of education process is it is expensive to educate on island. Need data as to why some of it is so expensive so we can educate the public. We don't have luxury to ship off to next town. Our demographics and another reason is the huge number of ESL students. Member Orr stated Boston is doing the same thing. Brainstorm with other communities how they are dealing with this issue.

Public Comment:

Marie Laursen stated she could never find what the education plan was on website for town or school. A lot of people felt the historic value has been brushed off. Was sad when took tour the bldg. seemed to be deliberately neglected. Why didn't the school come to the Town and tell us the school was in need and if the town wanted to save the building we needed to do something. The meetings should be in the paper or something so people are aware of the meetings. A lot of people will be behind you with this project. Member Rogers stated that -John Custer and Kirk Metell are working to address some of the issues including addressing the windows. Using funds to do some immediate repairs that are needed.

Sean deBettencourt wants to thank you for doing this, it's a thankless job and I appreciate it and the town does.

Ben Robinson said they should look at earmark bills- we should find out what the structure of those bills are. It is important to pick quality over quantity. Remember the bigger you build the less quality and the long-term liability for the school and maintenance. Pay attention to the architecture of how the building stands currently.

Adjourned

(signature on file)

July 12, 2019

Rachel Orr, TSBC Chair

Date

Minutes approved by TSBC 6/26/19