

**George H. Mitchell Elementary School Project  
School Building Committee Minutes #52  
Virtual Meeting  
Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:30pm**

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**Voting Committee Members in attendance:**

John Gerrish, Chair  
Michael Dolan, Vice Chair  
Lillian Holbrook  
Kathleen Blais  
Scott Wauchope  
Harsh Rebello  
Patrick Driscoll  
Joseph Oravec  
Mark Linde

**Voting Committee Members not in attendance:**

Matthew Rushton  
Michael Losche  
John Dzialo  
Eric Desrochers

**Non-Voting Committee Members in attendance:**

Kathleen Macedo  
Lisa Ohman  
Dennis Bray  
Michael Dutton, Town Manager  
Derek Swenson, Superintendent

**Others in Attendance:**

Michael McNulty, DPI  
Alyssa Chatani, DPI  
Gene Raymond, RDA

**Call to Order by the Chair of the Committee, John Gerrish, at 6:32PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Opening Remarks**

Superintendent Derek Swenson has visited the site and said that progress is coming along nicely.

**Approval of Previous SBC Meeting Minutes**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*Michael Dolan motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Lillian Holbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**Approval of Bacon Payment Requisition #2 \* Vote Required\***

*Mark Linde motioned to approve Requisition #2 in the amount \$739,704, Patrick Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**Approval of Samiotes Change Order**

Gene Raymond explained the rationale for the change order: Bridgewater Con Com and Planning Board conditioned project approval based on independent engineering oversight of the project. Also included is an end of job survey to be submitted to both boards. Con Com also requires that the wetlands be marked with stakes. Planning Board also may require independent site inspection. Funding request is to provide services as needed. Maximum would be \$63,250, and it is possible it could be only \$8,000 or \$9,000.

*Michael Dolan motioned to amend RDA's contract to include civil engineering services 1-7, not to exceed an amount of \$63,250, Harsh Rebello seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

### **Approval to Award Briggs and the Independent Testing Lab**

Michael McNulty explained that the request was to approve Briggs as the testing firm for a range of testing such as wells, compaction, materials, and anything else required to be tested by third parties. Mr. McNulty recommended Briggs with an allowance to use up to the budgeted amount of \$125,000 if necessary. Briggs is known to the OPM and designer through prior projects. Michael McNulty was asking for a vote to expend full budgeted amount to cover any additional expenses for retesting, changing site conditions, etc.

*Harsh Rebello motioned to approve the award to Briggs as the testing contractor at the rates as presented with a not-to-exceed of \$125,000, Patrick Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

### **OPM Update**

Weekly site meetings have begun, and the playground and existing foundation has been demolished. Concrete will finish forming within the next week. Additional site clearing, erosion control, riprap mud removal, site prep, and grading have been going on.

### **Designer Update**

Contractor is looking to place the project sign. Everyone confirmed correct spelling. Gene will forward to Bacon for hanging. Gene Raymond reviewed the lighting plan. All lights are LED and are directional so there will not be any spill over. Planning Board also was concerned about light spillover. All lights will have zero foot-candles at the property line. Lights are all on building management system, so they can be programmed on and off or dimmed. Neighbor concerns with surface water have been addressed, all hard surfaces are pitched to drainage structures. Neighbor concerns regarding retaining wall: Neighbors' property is lower than required elevations for the new school. The elevation is needed for accessibility reasons. A retaining wall is planned which goes from roughly 1' to 12 feet high. The tallest portions will not affect any neighbor. Made of concrete (gravity blocks) but have a stone wall pattern. There will be a black vinyl chain link fence on top of steepest part of wall. The retaining wall is set back from 8 to 14 feet from property line. If needed at end of project, green giant arborvitae or Hertzii juniper can be planted to buffer the view of the retaining wall. Cedar fencing will be installed where a cedar fence currently exists. The balance of the fencing will be black chain link. Neighbor Baslers asked to speak and were granted permission by the Chair. They encourage the use of a "green" tree barrier to block the school. They are fine with either species but noted that deer might eat the arborvitae. They also encourage retaining budget funds for trees. They also are concerned with lighting, and Gene Raymond explained that all exterior lights will be directed down, unlike old Mitchell.

### **Report of the Communication Group**

Michael Dolan reported that the Committee received a few emails from abutters which were address by Joe Sullivan on site. Trying to put up 4 week look-ahead on web site. Any groundbreaking probably will be cancelled due to COVID. A "beam signing" is likely more meaningful to kids and community

and staff. One neighbor concerned about the rock crushing product. Neighbor was concerned about materials being buried on site. Joe Sullivan visited neighbor and explained that material would be trucked off site.

**Public Comment**

Neighbor Baslers suggested using watering bags for any newly planted trees.

**New Business**

Michael Dolan inquired about the progress in getting the tax calculator up on the Town website. Michael Dutton responded that the Town was only awaiting the updated MSBA spreadsheet and that the calculator can be operable soon after Mike McNulty forwards the spreadsheet to the Town.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The committee will next meet on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm.

**Adjourn**

*Michael Dolan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17PM, Mark Linde seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**Adjourn at 8:17PM.**

Prepared by: Joshua McGraw

Lillian Holbrook

Lillian Holbrook Secretary-Clerk

April 12, 2021

Date of Acceptance