

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Minutes of April 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Ed Forsberg, Chairman, at 6:05 pm in the Council on Aging Meeting Room, Town Hall.

Committee Members Present: Ed Forsberg, Dick Power, Al Goetz, Bruce Norwell, Mary Kent, John Desmond, Roger Turner

Visitors Present: Lincoln Lynch, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy Gallivan, School Committee Vice Chairman; Michael Friscia, School Business Administrator

Staff Present: Don Johnson, Stephanie Mercandetti, Maura Therrien

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an interview with representatives of the Walpole Public Schools regarding their department's needs for new or renovated space for their ongoing facilities needs. Superintendent of Schools Lincoln Lynch, School Committee Vice Chairman Nancy Gallivan, and School Business Administrator Michael Friscia were present for this purpose. She passed out information about the school buildings within the district.

Nancy G. said: the priority of the School Committee [regarding facilities needs] is older buildings that are not renovated. Old Post Road School had portables in the early '90s, needs windows. Fisher School needs windows. Johnson School has solid cement block design, \$50,000.00 work needed in floor tiles, traffic and parking problems. Bird School's roof cost is \$400,000.00 and \$190,000 is reimbursed. Plimpton School needs renovation. A school building is expected to last fifty years. Boyden School's main roof cost is \$65,000.00. Projections are a child added on per week. We consider apartment houses, single buildable lots and developments, in population trends. The cost of the study may be shared with town departments. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) checks building maintenance annually.

Dick asked: Do the schools need property? To which Lincoln L. responded: No, Johnson School has space to build. There are wetlands in back of Johnson. It would cost \$200,000.00 to run a driveway out back.

Dick said: We need to look at what we have, what we need, and plan.

Mary said: We want new uses for old spaces; put the School Department in the old library?

Dick said: We want to put teachers in front of kids.

Lincoln L. said: There is no immediate need to move. We have four special ed. teachers in one room. That is tight. We won't use the library because of parking and access. We have a good rate of renovation in existing buildings.

Roger asked: If we close the Johnson School do we have any uses for the building? To which Lincoln L. responded: There has been no public conversation at this time.

Roger asked: Wouldn't "neighborhood schools" save money on transportation? To which Lincoln L. responded: That is the reason for the study. We need updated demographics but it is not an immediate need. We will look at people moving in and out, and the available building lots.

Don asked: How about recreation space? To which Lincoln L. responded: Field hockey is now out, but there have been no complaints. Some High School practices are located at elementary schools. Turf field is a great investment.

John asked: Do you have a comment if the Walpole Woodworkers land is developed as the Preserve has been? To which Lincoln L. responded: There are .6 children per two bedroom apartment, and .4 in single homes. All classrooms are being used but one at Fisher, Old Post has one not used next year, middle school has two wood shop rooms that are convertible to classrooms. Apartment dwellers tend to be transient. All need to pass the MCAS before graduating high school.

Roger said: The special ed. population is decreasing. To which Lincoln L. responded: In town education for special needs saves \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00, but there are fewer children with severe needs. One in one hundred ten is autistic. It is a six fold increase in twenty years. It is not caused by immunity shots. Studies are ongoing concerning preservatives, and hormones used in beef.

Mary said: If we need to provide more equipment and space... To which Lincoln L. responded: We can add on to buildings, not buy more land.

Mary said: Our space can bring money here from other towns' needs. To which Lincoln L. responded: There are more special needs children placed in MA than any other state. If we have room, we take other towns' students. The government subsidizes the state, 72% beyond \$44,000.00

In other business:

Ed said: Dick Power and I went before the FinCom [on March 31]. The presentation on Spring Brook went well. The capital budget article, #11, is with a lot of other things.

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Ed said: Bob Auditoire [of Walpole Youth Football & Cheerleading] thinks the flagpole on Stone Field should go behind the screen toward third base. It depends on where the shed goes.

Paul Yingling and Greg Sands (Northeastern University engineering students), Conservation Agent Landis Hershey, and DPW Director Bob O'Brien are working on application to clean up the Spring Brook area. The Rec. Department has volunteers. Maybe the second or third weekend in April or the first in May will do.

Stephanie said she had met with Council on Aging Director Barbara Coughlin about other towns' Senior Center buildings. Foxboro's COA building is too small for them. It is only twelve years old.

John said: We need suggestions about what we can do with our old buildings.

At 7:20 pm, John moved to adjourn, Dick Power seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,