

Ad Hoc Stone Building Feasibility/Reuse Committee

March 4, 2021 8:00 AM

Town of Lexington, MA

MINUTES

Members of the public can view the meeting webinar from their computer or tablet by clicking on the following link at the time of the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97552286002?pwd=Y1dtSzA1YnVMc0hMc0h1ZGNpQmphQT09>

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Meeting ID: 975 5228 6002

Passcode: 620474

Meeting began at 8:05am, with a membership roll call, and reading of statement on use of Virtual Meetings for fulfilling the open meeting requirement

Attending: Members: Jill Hai (Select Board Liaison), Cristina Burwell, Lester Savage, Anne Grady, Melinda Nasardinov, Mark Manasas, Paul Smyke, Carolyn Goldstein, Jeff Howry (Chair), Meg Muckenhoupt (Appropriations Committee Liaison), Claire Feingold Thoryn (Cary Library Trustees Liaison)

Absent: Devan Marks

Recording Secretary: Cristina Burwell

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve by Mark, seconded by Anne.

1. Public forum planning

- a. Press release to communicate information about the committee's charge and request for input (Carolyn) - A request was made to include EDS's building use restrictions, changing the tone of the last sentence to read more aspirational and less defensive, and adding a link to the committee's web page. The press release was approved, allowing for needed editorial but non-substantive changes. This was motioned by Mark, seconded by Anne and had unanimous approval.
- b. Video for outreach - Devin to provide updates at the next meeting.

- c. Outreach to organizations and media outlets (Mark) - We have a draft of roughly 300 organizations identified by areas of involvement with notation on how these community groups might be interested in contributing (amplifying announcements, presenting at a meeting, etc). List is being fine-tuned to try to both limit contacts to organizations and media outlets that may have an interest in/or ability to share information about the Stone building, while at the same time casting the net wide enough to inform anyone in the community with an interest (list is now at a more manageable 53 organizations). Mark has sent the list to committee members to note who they have updated contact information for. Stone building committee members will also act as liaisons for community outreach. This list will then be able to be used (in conjunction with the press release noted above) to publicize both the existence and charge of this committee, and announcement of public forum 1 to solicit input on community ideas for how they would like to see the building used. It was mentioned that this list might also be used to solicit a more diverse makeup of committee membership. It was noted that that outreach has already happened when the committee was formed and applications sought, and that the authority overseeing membership is the Select Board.
 - d. Proposed timing - It was suggested that we aim for mid-April as a working target for public forum 1. It is understood that this will be online (Zoom). It was suggested that we have two forums (each with the same topic) to provide different times that might capture a wider swath of participants and allow for broader participation, but that committee members do not need to attend both. For example, one might be during the day, and another in the evening. In hopes of getting thoughtful and meaningful input, it was suggested that members of the public submit something in advance if they wanted to speak. It was also noted that the committee needs to allow for public comment which is unscripted. At this time, no conclusions for forum design were made.
2. **Financial feasibility** - Jeff commented on the need to come up with how much it will cost to keep the building going (i.e., a hard-nosed real estate study) and indicated that he will be looking into this in the coming months, and starting an investigation of the square footage of the building. It was noted that the committee's charge is to look into reuse possibilities for the building to feed into supporting Town investment rather than

how it is financed. It was recommended that Mike Cronin (Facilities Dept) come back to a committee meeting after the committee has some ideas about what to do with the building, and its relationship to the Town budget).

3. Other

- a. It was noted that we missed the public comments section at the beginning of the meeting, and community member Jaclyn Anderson addressed the committee and her interest in the Stone building. She also mentioned “Five Sparks” as a similar cultural institution that might serve as a model to learn from.

Adjournment motioned by Mark and seconded by Anne. Roll call for unanimous approval.
Meeting ended at 9:21am