

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2018
Homer Building Gallery
7:30 AM

2018 AUG 27 AM 9:02

Meeting #51

Committee Members Attending:

Chair Lovallo; Members John Phelan, Mike McAllister, Tom Caputo, Pat Bruschi, Bob McLaughlin, Joel Mooney, Diane Miller, Emma Thurston, Steve Dorrance

From Daedalus: No one was present.

From Perkins+Will: Chris Karlson

From Skanska: Mr. Dan Lanneville

BHSBC Members Absent: Patrice Garvin, Chris Messer, Jamie Shea, Lisa Fiore, Joe DeStefano

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 a.m. by Chair Lovallo. He reviewed the agenda and then turned to the first item.

II. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Thurston informed the Committee that the following three Invoices are ready for their approval:

Invoice 1: Daedalus

Mr. Mooney moved: To approve the Invoice of **\$14,905.00**.
The motion passed unanimously.

Invoice 2: Skanska

Mr. Mooney moved: To approve the Invoice of **\$83,130.00**.
The motion passed unanimously.

Invoice 3: Perkins+Will

Mr. Mooney moved: To approve the Invoice of **\$122,444.64**.

Ms. Bruschi asked a question about this invoice: what percentage of the amount that has been allotted to the schematic design does this invoice represent? Chair Lovallo replied that Perkins+Will have now billed 80% of their Schematic Design Fee.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. Presentation Review: Campaign Finance and Open Meeting Law (OML)

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the Campaign Finance portion of the presentation (held on Tuesday night, July 17, 2018) focused on the impact of a campaign on paid public employees. Public Employees cannot deal with any campaign donations, he explained – they cannot be a Treasurer and cannot fundraise. Public buildings cannot be used for a campaign meeting. No public resources can be used on the campaign. Campaign contributions, however, can be any amount; there is no limit.

Chair Lovallo noted that BHSBC members cannot use the paid consultants for any work associated with the vote campaign. He added that the BHSBC website can only provide factual information – it can't take a stand on the ballot question vote. Selectman Caputo noted that this applies to *any* public employees, not just those employed in Belmont. He also noted that there are specific laws pertaining to the distribution of campaign materials.

Ms. Brusch noted that the School Administration needs to communicate carefully – not only with school employees and staff, but also with PTA/PTO organizations – about what kinds of material are acceptable to distribute through school-sponsored distribution channels (website, emails, backpack notices, etc.) Ballot advocacy materials are not appropriate for such venues.

Concerning OML, Mr. McLaughlin briefly discussed the fact that deliberations pertaining to the committee's work fall under OML. Chair Lovallo noted that the same rules apply to subcommittees and to "working groups" – although, he added, the BHSBC does not have any working groups. He added that the current process concerning BHSBC minutes is consistent with OML. Selectman Caputo noted that the Communications Subcommittee will need to be careful with the editing of documents, e.g., the process of receiving editorial input from multiple committee members.

The BHSBC briefly discussed the implications of OML.

IV. Discussion: Next Steps Following Schematic Design Submission

Chair Lovallo explained that the Schematic Design package was delivered to the MSBA on July 11. The document can be found on the BHSBC website. He said there is an MSBA Board meeting on August 29, and there will be one additional MSBA meeting before that. The project funding agreement will need to be finalized and signed. This agreement includes: the project scope, the schedule, and information on the state's grant commitment. Chair Lovallo explained the process by which the eligible costs are reimbursed. Mr. Lanneville addressed the potential increase to construction costs as a result of the new tariffs (he implied that it is accounted for in the estimate). Escalation costs, he explained, are carefully estimated. Chair Lovallo noted that the total budget cost will not change; it stands at \$295M.

Chair Lovallo noted that traffic and energy discussions will continue throughout the fall. He suggested that the school faculty and staff Grade 7-12 Committee will likely continue to meet in the fall, as well. Superintendent Phelan spoke to the work that has been done by the Grade 7-12 Committee, as well as the nature of the work that will need to happen, assuming the vote in November is positive.

Ms. Brusch noted that, assuming the debt exclusion passes, Town Meeting will need to authorize the debt exclusion. The TM dates have been set for November 13 and 14.

V. Next Full Building Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.

VI. Update: Community Outreach

Selectman Caputo provided two updates:

1. The BHSBC website now has hundreds of documents and therefore that section needs to be restructured so that people can navigate and more effectively access the documents. The documents are currently being reorganized to make them more accessible. The website revamp should be completed in about two weeks. Chair Lovallo raised a point that documents are being taken off the website and this is a problem.

2. The video concerning the need for a new building has been shot, and there is a rough cut of the video. A Belmont resident is volunteering to provide video narration and that script has been written.

Chair Lovallo raised the issue of “visuals”. He requested that the packet of visual materials that constitute the schematic design be placed on the BHSBC website.

VII. Comments from Belmont Residents

None.

VIII. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Ms. Brusch moved: To approve the Minutes of 6/28/18.
The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Other/New Business

Community Bike Path/Alexander Ave. Underpass

Selectman Caputo raised the issue of the community bike path effort as it relates to connecting the Alexander Ave. Underpass. He noted that the community path is being broken up into three phases. He explained the logistics of the three phases. Funding will be needed to support the design phase process.

A letter was written to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) (from Board of Selectmen Chair Adam Dash) requesting that the CPC consider taking an “off cycle” vote regarding providing CPA funds to support the community path design phase. The CPC process usually takes requests in August, reviews them in the fall, votes its recommendations around December, then forwards those to Town Meeting in the Spring, etc. – the Selectmen are looking to get a vote on funds for the design phase *outside* of the usual CPC schedule. (If the CPC allows an “off cycle” vote, the Selectmen will probably make a request for \$400,000, which is 10% of the estimated project cost for this phase.)

Chair Lovallo said that asking for the BHSBC’s input on this issue is not an unreasonable request – since it relates to the overall project design, to safety, and to traffic flow. Ms. Brusch stated her concerns about having the BHSBC weigh in on this. She said this issue has not been well vetted with the residents in the area. She said it is not clear what is being asked for, e.g., 1A, 1B, etc. Mr.

McLaughlin stated that this issue is a bit controversial and maybe the BHSBC should not wade into it. Chair Lovallo stated that he supports the *study* of connecting the community bike path to the Alexander Ave. Underpass – such a study would allow residents to comment on the path and underpass and its impact to the High School design. Up to now, there has not been a forum where residents can discuss this topic because it is not part of the High School project.

Selectman Caputo moved: That the BHSBC endorse the Selectmen’s request for the CPC to *consider* off-cycle funding for the design of the community bike path phase 1A, as it pertains to the Alexander Ave. Underpass, although this is not a component of the Belmont High School building project.

The motion passed unanimously.

Debt Exclusion Vote Language

Ms. Bruschi referred to a handout which contained the Debt Exclusion language, and noted that, per state regulations, the text does *not* indicate a specific dollar amount. A committee to support this debt exclusion has been formed. Both the MSBA and legal counsel have approved the language. It will now be submitted to the state via the Town Clerk’s Office.

High School Traffic Working Group

A group of 11 members will be named to the High School Traffic Working Group; of the 11, one is to be a member of the BHSBC. This group was established by the Town Administrator upon request of the BOS. Chair Lovallo asked for suggestions on who should be designated to represent the BHSBC to sit on the working group. He said he would be happy to continue traffic discussions, as he has been deeply involved in this topic for over a year. He added that it might make sense to add an alternate, at some point.

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To appoint Chair Lovallo to the High School Traffic Working Group. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Related Meeting Documents

1. Community Preservation Committee letter from Adam Dash, Selectman Chair
2. Highway Division Project Initiation Form
3. Debt Exclusion language
4. High School Traffic Working Group
5. Belmont High School Budget Project (June 28, 2018)

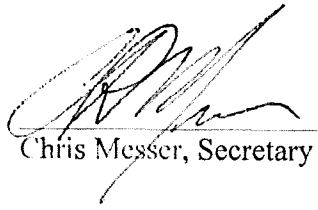
XI. Adjournment

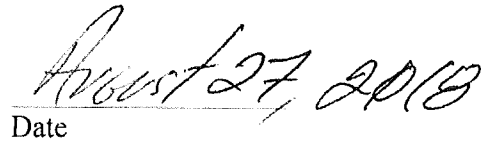
The meeting ended at 8:52 a.m. by Mr. McLaughlin.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Gibalerio

Approved:


Chris Messer, Secretary


Date