

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2018
Wellington School Cafeteria
6:30 PM

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2018 FEB -5 PM 2:31

Meeting #34

Committee Members Attending:

Chair Lovallo; Members: Chris Messer, Adam Dash, John Phelan, Tom Caputo, Pat Bruschi, Dan Richards, Bob McLaughlin, Diane Miller, Emma Thurston, Jamie Shea, Joe DeStefano (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

From Daedalus: Tom Gatzunis, Shane Nolan

From Perkins+Will: Brooke Trivas, Patrick Cunningham, Rick Kuhn

Mr. Jason Schrieber - from Nelson Nygaard

BHSBC Members Absent: Joel Mooney, Phyllis Marshall

School Committee Members Attending: Catherine Bowen, (Tom Caputo), Susan Burgess-Cox

Board of Selectmen Attending: Chair Jim Williams and Adam Dash
[Chair Williams called the BOS to order at 6:50 p.m.]

Approximately 30 members from the General Public were in attendance.

I. Call to Order

The BHSBC meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Lovallo. He noted that Mr. Gerry Boyle recently retired from his position as Facilities Director and that his retirement leaves a void with the BHSBC Secretary position. He then reviewed the agenda for the evening's meeting. He noted that Ms. Marshall is absent, but that three invoices would be processed tonight.

II. Appointment of Officers

Chair Lovallo reviewed the BHSBC Secretary's responsibilities.

Ms. Bruschi moved: To nominate Mr. Chris Messer as Secretary of the BHSBC.
The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lovallo reviewed the Vice Chair's responsibilities.

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To nominate Ms. Pat Bruschi as Vice Chair of the BHSBC.
The motion passed unanimously.

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chair Lovallo noted that the Minutes of January 9 will be sent out for BHSBC review soon. However, the following set is ready for approval:

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To approve the Minutes of **12/14/17**.
The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Chair Lovallo informed the Committee that the following Invoices are ready for their approval:

Invoice 1 - \$11,030

Ms. Bruschi moved: To approve the Invoice of \$11,030.00 from Daedalus.
The motion passed unanimously.

Invoice 2 - \$90,000

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To approve the Invoice of \$90,000 from Perkins + Will.
The motion passed unanimously.

Invoice 3 - \$765.00

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To approve the Invoice of \$765.00 for Minute's Recording, from Ms. Lisa Gibalerio.
The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Meeting Schedule Update

Chair Lovallo reviewed several of the upcoming meetings:

Tues., January 16, 7:00 p.m.	Design Solutions with feedback from previous meeting
Thurs., January 18, 7:30 a.m.	Review of Design Solutions, thus far, and Survey Feedback Summary
Tues., January 23, 7:00 p.m.	Grade Configuration and Design Option Decision
Thurs., February 1, 6:30 p.m.	Review of draft Preferred Schematic Report
Tues., February 13, 7:00 p.m.	Approval of Final Preferred Schematic Report

VI. Traffic Update – Report Summary

Chair Lovallo noted that Ms. Trivas has met with several town departments concerning issues relating to traffic.

Mr. Schrieber summarized the Site Access Analysis Traffic Report concerning the current BHS. He noted that many site visits occurred to observe the flow of traffic, the numbers of vehicles, bike activity, walking routes, MBTA activity, U-turns, crosswalk conflicts, etc. Also analyzed were crash data, parking lot numbers, and delays and queues. He noted that peak morning time for traffic is from about 7:20 to 7:40 a.m. He highlighted the areas that queue up intensely. He noted that about 60% of faculty and students are driving (or being dropped off), with the remaining 40% walking, biking, etc.

He reviewed nine potential improvement recommendations that have come out of the last several months of traffic analysis:

1. Adding a Traffic Signal to the Goden/Concord intersection
2. Implementing two full-access site driveways (distributes the traffic more evenly)
3. Providing drop-off loops internal to the site (to prevent queues)
4. Providing walking and transit access
5. Enhanced biking access
6. Adding on-site parking
7. Shorter delay and queues at key intersections, e.g., Concord/Goden, Concord/Underwood, Underwood/Hittenger
8. Neutral impacts to Hittenger & Brighton
9. Enhanced emergency vehicle circulation

These improvements, he said, will increase safety and add benefits for not only the school community, but also the community as a whole.

He then applied the nine improvements to the various design scenarios (specifically the four design options that are currently on the table).

Questions

Chair Lovallo asked about the recommendations concerning Goden Street (light signal). Mr. Schrieber noted that Goden is already heavily traversed with cars (as it provides the Concord Ave cross-over), U-turns, and walkers, etc. so that it made sense to focus on Goden to improve safety. He explained how the traffic volume would be calmed; he noted that there are several ways in which the signal could be designed.

BOS Chair Williams also asked about the Goden recommendation and expressed concern about the cut-through use to get to the Chenery. Mr. Schrieber said that the signal could reduce (control) traffic on Goden. BOS Chair Williams asked several follow-up questions concerning Hittenger St., the MBTA train, the Alexander Street tunnel, etc.

III. Comments and Questions from Belmont Residents

Ms. Anne Marie Mahoney, 24 Goden Street, made several points about traffic on Goden Street. She noted that this neighborhood was constructed before there were even cars. Goden is too narrow for the traffic it receives and over 20 cars are backed up every single day. A light will not fix the traffic on Goden, it will, in fact, increase the traffic on Goden. She suggested opening up the medians to Concord from the other side streets: Orchard, Oak, Myrtle, etc. That, she said, would mitigate the traffic on Goden. Mr. Schrieber responded to some of the concerns raised by Ms. Mahoney.

Selectman Dash, a Goden Street resident, asked a series of questions concerning the Goden Street recommendations. Mr. Schrieber responded to some of the concerns raised by Selectman Dash. The topic of making Goden Street a one-way was raised.

Ms. Chris Kochem, Town Meeting Member Precinct 8, spoke to the evening traffic on Concord/Goden. She asked about the Channing Road access to the new school via Alexander Ave. Chair Lovallo noted that the BHSBC is not analyzing Alexander Ave. as it is not a part of the new

building project.

Ms. Miller asked about adding more bussing options to the new building as a way to mitigate traffic from the north side as well as to mitigate community-wide traffic.

Mr. David Otte, 9 Goden Street, said that all of the high school traffic is being placed on to Goden Street. He asked several questions pertaining to cross traffic and added that adding two grades to the high school will definitely increase traffic in the area. How could it not? he asked.

Ms. Thurston asked about the Hittenger flow of traffic to Brighton, Baker, and Concord. She expressed concern about the intense traffics on these streets during morning and evening times.

Dr. Ana Abrams, 15 Goden Street, spoke to the unsafe walking conditions in the area. She suggested that the streets be restricted more than they presently are. She agreed that the streets cannot take more traffic than they currently are exposed to. She said she would favor a light on Goden, but only if it increased pedestrian safety. Mr. Schrieber stated that perhaps a signal at Goden/Concord would make the intersection more safe for walkers.

Ms. Kate Bowen, SC Member, asked about staggering the start times. She also asked about other safety concerns for pedestrians, e.g., bump-outs, congestion under the bridge, traffic calming initiatives, etc.

Ms. Anne Paulson, School Street, said she hopes town-wide solutions can be brainstormed for Belmont as a whole. Cambridge, she said, has initiated some successful traffic calming mitigations. She said it looks like cars are being *encouraged* to drive to the BHS site, not discouraged from driving. Mr. Schrieber agreed that biking and walking should be encouraged.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that Cottage and Goden are the only ways to get to the Center and to the Hill. He asked why the medians from the other streets, e.g., Oak, Myrtle, etc. can't be opened up to Concord. Mr. Schrieber said that Goden can be managed without opening the other medians.

Mr. Camille Fuleihan, 3 Sandrick Road, spoke to the cut-through traffic from Route 2 that is causing problems. The cut-through traffic is the main problem and only Belmont residents should be allowed to drive through Belmont. Belmont should have busses continually dropping kids off and picking kids up from the high school.

Ms. Jane Otte, Goden Street, asked why the Alexander Street tunnel is not a part of this project? Chair Lovallo provided some background information on this issue.

Mr. Russell Mann agreed that cut-through traffic is a major public health and quality of life problem for Belmont. This issue should be a top priority for Belmont.

Superintendent Phelan noted that there are now eight busses in Belmont. Each bus costs about \$60-70K annually. He then explained the laws around bussing as well as bussing fees. The fees are high, he said, and that could be why more people don't have their children take the bus. Ms. Bowen (SC member) directed several bussing questions to Mr. Phelan.

Mr. Fred Paulson, TMM Pct. 1, suggested that the BHSBC will need to answer these questions and concerns before Town Meeting and the town vote on these issues. The Selectmen, the School

Committee, and the Building Committee will need to address these issues. Chair Lovallo noted that these issues have been focused on and will continue to be focused on. He then asked several clarifying questions which Mr. Schrieber addressed.

Ms. Gretchen McClain, School Street, noted that these plans seem to be creating a lot of traffic on School Street/Goden Street. Bussing, she said, is not always an option because the high school students have such varying schedules. She requested that other traffic options are explored.

Mr. Al [?], 311 Brighton Street, reiterated that the issue of cut-through traffic needs to be addressed. Even if there are no cars at the high school, traffic will still be a major issue.

BOS Chair Williams spoke to the overlap concerning traffic issues. Many groups in town are concerned with traffic. He suggested that Mr. Schrieber present his analysis to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Mr. Caputo asked if the traffic mitigation has a definitive due date or if solutions can be brainstormed as the project evolves. Chair Lovallo noted that the MSBA is expecting to know the definition of the project this summer. Therefore, many of these issues need to be resolved sooner rather than later – although some issues will continue to be worked out.

XII. Next Full Building Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Chenery Middle School, Community Room

XIII. Related Meeting Documents

1. Belmont High School Site Access Analysis
2. BHSBC Meeting Summary
3. BHSBC Minutes Draft 12/14/17


XIV. End Meeting

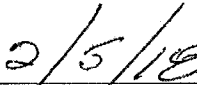
The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m. by Mr. McLaughlin

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Gibalerio

Approved:


Chris Messer, Secretary


Date