

# Whately Center School Committee meeting minutes 12.17.19

Meeting held at Old Town Hall 6:15-8pm

Next meeting 1/14/2020 6pm

Town Hall meeting room 6pm (Becky reserved the room already)

## **Present**

"Becky Jones" <[rmjo@rcn.com](mailto:rmjo@rcn.com)>;

"Fred Orloski" <[f.orloski@whately.org](mailto:f.orloski@whately.org)>;

Judy Markland <[jmarkland@lmstrategies.com](mailto:jmarkland@lmstrategies.com)>;

"Leslie Harris" ([info@quonquont.com](mailto:info@quonquont.com)) <[info@quonquont.com](mailto:info@quonquont.com)>;

"Marc Bussiere" <[bussieremarc@aol.com](mailto:bussieremarc@aol.com)>;

"Paul Antaya" <[aya@comcast.net](mailto:aya@comcast.net)>;

"Stan Scordilis" ([sscordil@smith.edu](mailto:sscordil@smith.edu)) <[sscordil@smith.edu](mailto:sscordil@smith.edu)>

"Mary Stuart" <[mstuart2323@gmail.com](mailto:mstuart2323@gmail.com)>;

"Marissa Hashizume" <[marissahashizume@gmail.com](mailto:marissahashizume@gmail.com)>; (on phone)

## **Remediation**

Marc Bussiere supplied us with a Remediation estimate from WMDC (Western Mass Demolition Corp.)--

quote of 60,000.00 minimum, up to 100,000 for demo/remediation); Marc reports that Kieth would be willing to do it as a town entity.

## **Further discussion of the town owning the building**

Discussion of town-owned versus private, some issues included:

Town is under stricter regulations s/a ADA requirements, which would mean cost estimates for the town would be higher than private estimates.

Given the impressive amount of grants and private donations the town hall received,  
Grants 300,000

185,000 private donations

700,000 CPA money

300,000 from the cell tower

There were no increased taxes to Whately residents for the town hall

it was concluded that such opportunities could be potentially available for the school as well, so the town should not rule out owning it outright and/or leasing it to a private entity but holding the title for future opportunities.

Judy noted that green communities grants do not require a match, so the town would not have to come up with such money.

If the town were to own it, it would be reasonable to include funding for a building manager, since the town hall requires maintenance as well.

## **Discussion of the Survey**

Marissa led us by phone over the survey

Three ways to get info:

Free flow

Present options

Last is most specific

We decided to make the questions a little broader, recognizing the purpose of the survey is to communicate with the residents about the fate of the building, and gather a sense of overall interest in the building, as well as ideas about what is needed in town and what possible uses we can come with for the building.

We decided to expedite the survey, offering 100 - 200 surveys at the transfer station through the first half of January, starting with 100. Marc would get copies made, and we would collect them at the transfer station and have them dropped off in various public places. We would also make the survey available online through the town website.

Marissa will write up another version and send it out, she will highlight areas to be able to give feedback.