

**Stonington Facilities Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Stonington Human Services, Pawcatuck, CT  
Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Facilities Committee held a special meeting on this date, Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Stonington Human Services.

Members present were Paul Sartor, Acting Chairman; Sandy Grimes, Jean Fiore, Chris Donahue, Alisa Morrison and Selectman John Prue, Board of Selectman liaison. Also present were Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary and interested citizens  
Members absent: Don Maranell and Bill King,

**1. Call to order**

Acting Chairman Paul Sartor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jean Fiore was seated as an alternate.

**3. Comments from the Public**

Jessica Morrissey, Stonington, said the Department of Public Works is in charge of the securing of the building and Barbara McKrell, Stonington Director of Public Works, has created a comprehensive and well thought out program. Ms. Morrissey said she has requested a copy of the revised plan but has not received it yet and wanted to know if the basketball courts have been included in the revised plan. John Prue told the group, the Board of Selectman meeting is on Wednesday night and they will act on an item to post hours of use for the basketball court. Mr. Prue said there will be motion detection lights and cameras installed that are linked to the police station for security.

Sue Jones, Pawcatuck, asked about a break-in at West Broad Street School and said her friend called the police to ask about it and they said there hadn't been one. John Prue answered he could not speak to that but the police have been good partners in the security of the building.

**4. Approval of minutes**

The minutes were revised as requested: Item #7 New Business: Alisa Morrison should have been Jean Fiore and Item #9, Paul Chairman should have been Paul Sartor.

A motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Sandy Grimes to approve the May 14, 2019 minutes as amended.  
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**5. Correspondence**

The following three letters were forwarded to the committee regarding West Broad Street School Building usage (Attachment #1):

- Linda Norton of Pawcatuck shared 10 points for consideration of use for the building.
- Jessica Morrissey recommended considering St. Michael School as an option.
- Jay Spaulding recommends using the building as a business incubator/nonprofit Support Space.

**6. Old Mystic School District Bldg.**

• **Review meeting w/Old Mystic FD**

Alisa Morrison met with a representative from the Old Mystic Fire department who said they are more than moderately interested in the Old Mystic property. The Old Mystic Fire Station 2 building is relatively new so they are interested in the land for training purposes and the building for community rooms. Also, if the property was sub-divided, they would be interested in the land.

Sandy Grimes suggested senior citizen affordable housing and will reach out to the Stonington Housing Authority regarding this possibility. Mr. Grimes also suggested the building could be used as a senior citizen center.

• **Time line for forwarding suggestions(s) to BOS**

This will be discussed as this item goes forward.

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- **Next Steps**

Provide information regarding the Old Mystic building logistics to the Old Mystic Fire Department.

Alisa Morrison will attend an Old Mystic Fire Department Regular Membership meeting to inquire about their interests and intent for the Old Mystic property.

7. **WBSS**

- **Review meeting w/Fr. Perkins**

Jean Fiore and Sandy Grimes met Father Perkins at St. Michael Rectory on May 22, 2019. Jean Fiore reported Father Perkins has a more than moderate interest in leasing the building for St. Michael School. Father Perkins expressed his interest in the architectural aspects and history of the building. He relayed that, if he leased the building, he would want assurance that would have terms to commence with his investment.

- **Review Community Suggestions (Attachment #2)**

Jean Fiore explained she took the suggestion cards from the open houses to create a list with fourteen categories and included the names of the people who suggested the use. The committee discussed the various categories. The committee discussed whether the town hall wanted West Broad Street School as an annex. This question will be asked of John Prue.

- **Comte discussion: Strategy going forward**

The committee discussed the logistics of what would be needed to reopen West Broad Street School as a school. Mr. Sartor said he thought Father Perkins should be asked if he would like to move St. Michael School over to West Broad Street School for the upcoming school year. John Prue suggested a checklist be created with the steps of what would need to be done to facilitate this suggestion if Father Perkins is interested.

Paul Sartor suggested a short-term lease with St. Michael School to provide them the opportunity to determine if the school was a feasible choice for their needs and also, rectify the issue with the building being empty. If St. Michael was occupying the building on a short-term lease, it would provide a transition period for both St. Michael and the town to make a final decision for the future use of West Broad Street School.

- **Time-line for forwarding suggestion(s) to BOS**

The time-line will be dependent on the results of Jean Fiore's next meeting with Father Perkins.

- **Prioritize suggestions**

The information gathered by Jean Fiore is a good representation of what the community wants for the building. At the next open house, note cards for community suggestions will be available to add to the information.

- **Next steps**

An open house was scheduled for Sunday, June 30, 2019 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Committee members attending will be Paul Sartor, Chris Donahue and Jean Fiore. John Prue will create signs and post them to inform the community. This open house will follow the same format as the previous ones.

Paul Sartor will contact Barbara McKrell, Stonington Director of Public Works to inquire what the town plans for the building. Jean Fiore will contact Father Perkins to ask the question if he would like to move St. Michael School over to West Broad Street School for the next school year. Jean Fiore will speak with Father Perkins regarding his next steps in the process of acquiring West Broad Street School.

The committee will gather information about the West Broad Street School regarding zoning, the mechanics of the building, and any other pertinent information related to the operations of the building.

8. **New Business**

No new business presented.

9. **Old Business**

No old business presented.

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**10. Comments from the Public**

Marcy Riley said the biggest thing is we don't want to see it empty. It is being seen the older kids are getting used to it being vacant and are parking there in the back late at night. The committee and public discussed the break-ins and vandalism and what is being done to keep the property secure. Paul Sartor thanked the neighborhood residents for watching out for the building and advised them if they have security concerns to contact the police or the town. A community member asked what would be the process of how the committee recommendation goes to the final decision. Paul Sartor said there are still some processes to go through before recommendations would be made to the Board of Selectmen who will make the final decision. A community member asked if the suggestion list will be posted on the internet as percentages. The committee responded the list will be posted as is. A community member said if the town used the West Broad Street School as an annex, it would have to be ADA compliant and would increase costs. The committee said they will research the logistics of what would need to be done to West Broad Street School for any entity interested in it. A committee member said the Old Mystic building had been considered for senior housing but the costs for hooking up city water and sewerage was cost prohibitive. Don Fiore said regarding the town hall annex, a good town to look at would be Groton as their town hall is split between two locations and it works. If Saint Michael School is allowed to open, it will have to go to a town meeting; if there is going to be a town meeting this summer, and Father Perkins is interested, it would be a good idea for the committee to get it on that agenda. The committee said this would be something that needs further investigation.

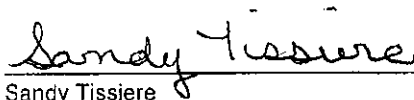
**11. Comments from the Committee**

No comments from the committee.

**12. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Sandy Grimes and seconded by Alisa Morrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.  
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Sandy Tissiere  
Recording Secretary