

**Stonington Facilities Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Stonington Human Services, Pawcatuck, CT  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Facilities Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Stonington Human Services.

Members present were Don Marinell, Sandy Grimes, Jean Fiore, Chris Donahue, Alisa Morrison and Selectman John Prue, Board of Selectman liaison. Also present were Sandy Tissiery, Recording Secretary and interested citizens

Member absent: Bill King,

Late Arrival: Paul Sartor, Acting Chairman; 7:16 p.m.

1. **Call to order**

Don Marinell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Comments from the Public**

Mike O'Neill, Director of Rowing for Stonington High School Crew and Vice-Chairman for the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee, was present to ask about the use of the Old Mystic elementary school building for crew team training. The committee asked Mr. O'Neill to wait until item #6 for discussion.

4. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes from June 11, 2019 were submitted for approval.

A motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Sandy Grimes to approve the June 11, 2019 minutes as submitted.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

5. **Correspondence**

There wasn't any correspondence presented.

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

• **Updates**

Alisa Morrison reported she has been corresponding with the Chief of the Old Mystic Fire Department and the discussion of their interest in the Old Mystic district building property is an item on their August 12, 2019 meeting agenda. She said she will let the committee members know the time of the meeting.

Sandy Grimes said he spoke to Rob Simmons, Stonington First Selectman and John Prue about moving the bus garage to the property. John Prue said a study has been done about it and the neighbors weren't in favor of it, it was not economically feasible and the location was not centrally located.

Alisa Morrison said she has emailed the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and has not heard back from them. The committee discussed the use of the building as a senior citizen center and the land as senior citizen housing. Alisa Morrison said she has contacted the housing authority to inquire if they have an interest in the property for this purpose and has not received a reply yet.

Mike O'Neill shared with the committee the history of the crew team and how they need a place for their training facility while waiting for the boathouse park project to come to fruition. Mr. O'Neill said he would like consideration of use of the gymnasium of the Old Mystic district building as an interim training facility for the crew team. Another area discussed for the crew team training facility was the Pawcatuck Middle School gym area as that part of the school will be ran by the town recreation department. The committee suggested Mike O'Neill contact Richard Ward, Director of Recreation, Stonington Human Services and Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities and Operations, Stonington Public Schools.

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The committee discussed the Old Mystic district building as a recreation center for all age groups.

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

This item was not discussed.

- **Next Steps**

Mike O'Neill will contact Richard Ward about the Pawcatuck Middle School gym and Peter Anderson regarding the Old Mystic gym.

The Old Mystic Fire Department board meeting on August 12, 2019, with the time to be determined.

Sandy Grimes will speak with Leanne Theodore, Human Services Director, Stonington Human Services, about the possibility of an all-inclusive community center.

**7. WBSS**

- **Committee Discussion: Updates**

The Open House is this Sunday, July 14, 2019 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The signs are done, it has been posted and the agenda has been sent to the town.

Sandy Grimes spoke with Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, Town of Stonington, and Larry Stannard, Building Official, Town of Stonington to discuss building codes and zoning laws for West Broad Street School. Mr. Grimes shared he found out the building is zoned for use as a school and a school could move into the building as it is. If the building were to be used as something other than a school, it would have to be brought up to present code.

Paul Sartor reported the information about cost estimation for West Broad Street School has been sent to Father Perkins. John Prue said if St. Michael School moving into the building is an option, a timeline needs to be developed and the type of lease needs to be discussed. The committee discussed the short-term lease in the regards it would enable St. Michael School time to determine if the school is a good fit and time for the town to determine if this is the best use of the property.

The committee discussed whether the Town of Stonington had an interest in using the West Broad Street School. The committee concurred the town hall being in West Broad School would not be the best fit because would be cost prohibitive binging the building up to code and the location is not conducive.

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

Don Marinell made a motion and Chris Donohue seconded to send a letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectman to enter into discussion with Father Perkins about the lease of West Broad Street School.

Discussion: Sandy Grimes asked about the list of other uses, are we recommending St. Michael be the first choice. The committee discussed they will make the recommendation but simultaneously explore the other options.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The committee concurred that Paul Sartor will write the letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectman.

The committee discussed the overall cleanliness of West Broad Street School. The school district left furniture and debris in the building when they vacated and the building should have been turned over in better shape.

- **Prioritize suggestions**

There will be a letter of recommendation sent to the Board of Selectmen suggesting they enter into discussion with Father Perkins about his interest in West Broad Street School while continuing to explore other options.

- **Next steps**

The open house is on July 14, 2019 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Chris Donahue, Sandy Grimes, Don Marinell and Jean Fiore will be there to run it.

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Paul Sartor will write the letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Paul Sartor will reach out to Father Perkins about contacting the Selectman's Office and the department of public works.

John Prue said he will discuss, at the next Board of Selectmen meeting, if there is interest from the town to use West Broad Street School, this information should be conveyed to the committee.

**8. New Business**

There wasn't any new business discussed.

**9. Old Business**

There wasn't any old business discussed.

**10. Comments from the Public**

Sue Jones asked if there is any interest from the housing authority in the Old Mystic property. Alisa Morrison said she has reached out to the housing authority and will contact them again.

**11. Comments from the Committee**

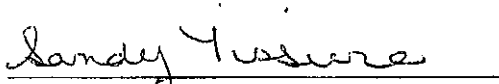
Jean Fiore said she would like to know what the housing authority is doing as the Old Mystic district building could be a consideration for their plans. Don Maranell will try to attend the next housing authority meeting.

**12. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Sandy Grimes and seconded by Chris Donahue to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:



Sandy Tissiere  
Recording Secretary