



Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee

June 9th, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Town of Hanover

The following minutes are from the Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 30th, 2016 in Sylvester School and Hanover Town Hall.

Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee Meeting Attendees:

Present: Heidi Cho, David Delaney, John Galluzzo, Christopher Martin, Joseph Rull and Louise Sironi

Absent: Douglas Thomson

The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee met with Jane DeGrenier, the school Principal and Jim McKinnell, an architect, for a tour of the Sylvester School building.

The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee reconvened at the Town Hall in the Advisory Room. The Committee recognized that the Town of Hanover has a demand for affordable housing, and that the town needs a viable option to move forward. Also, the Board recognized that the Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee should help alleviate the expenses of Center School expansion.

The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee discussed two options for managing the property: 99-year lease agreement versus selling the property. The Board was concerned that selling the property will lead to losing control of the property since it abuts the town's school and civic areas.

The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee discussed the school as a potential landmark for the historic district. The Board talked about the possibility of introducing a community market, if this is a popular idea with the community. The Board was concerned, however, about the impact of a new marketplace on taxes.

The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee discussed the possibility of redistricting/rezoning the area. The Board recognized that this may likely receive support from families with children, but it would also increase taxes.

For the next meeting, the Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee plans to contact and meet with David Aiken from the Planning Office of Urban Affairs, who has experience in similar projects. The Board will contact Brona Simon for a Massachusetts funding opportunity. The Board will also follow up with Jim McKinnelle about ADA specifications as it redevelops for affordable housing or office/corporate use in the future.

The Board wrapped up the discussion by identifying the need for affordable housing in the town, and by agreeing that the land/building should be owned by the Town to maintain control over the land. The Sylvester School Redevelopment Committee agreed to write up a one-page summary to the Board of Selectmen for the Special Town Meeting.

The next Sylvester Redevelopment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heidi Cho

Associate Planner