



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 11/3/2010 Public Hearing

THOMPSON SCHOOL REBUILD PROJECT
 PUBLIC HEARING
 Thompson School Cafeteria
 60 North Union Street
 Wednesday, November 3, 2010
 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Present:

Sheri Donovan, Thompson School Principal
 Domenic Lanzillotti, Town of Arlington, Purchasing Agent
 Mark Miano, Supt of Bldg Services, PTBC
 Tobey Jackson, Thompson School Parent Rep
 Tony Lionetta, Capital Planning Rep
 Jeff Thielman, School Committee Rep
 Karen Tassone / Recording Secretary
 Kevin Nigro, PMA Consultants
 Lori Cowles HMFH Architect

Tobey Jackson opened the meeting at 6:30 pm, explaining that Supt. Bodie was called away unexpectedly and asked him to chair the meeting. Tobey explained the process to date:

- Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted and approved by MSBA
- This is to identify existing conditions and present three viable options to MSBA including the preferred alternate with back up documentation.

The purpose of the public hearing is to share the three options and receive feedback from the Thompson Community.

Lori Cowles of HMFH Architects presented the three options and explained the goal of the feasibility study. Lori, Kevin and Sheri answered the following questions from the audience.

- Will the students be relocated
- Location of entrance and parking in option #3
- Concern over construction trucks and equipment with all options but emphasis on #3
- Abutters not happy with the prospect of a ballfield across the street from them
- Concern with grade changes in option 3 and driveway between school and ball park
- Is it handicap accessible
- Option 3 preferred for students, no busing, but what are the drawbacks
- Abutters – this is a bigger decision than busing students.
- What are the long term saving with option 2
- Not safe to land swap-noise is buffered by the current configuration
- Which option would be shorter in terms of construction time
- What is the usage of the field (Clarissa will find out)
- Why not have students attend other schools, which was done for the previous rebuilds
- Are transportations costs covered
- Not good for the neighborhood option 3
- What is the timeline
- Who are the decision makers
- What can parents do
- What would the design of the field look like
- What is the square footage in the new designs compared to current school
- What will MSBA do if TM rejects option 3

- Cost of the project

Clarissa Rowe and Annie LaCourt of the Board of Selectmen answered a number of questions regarding the warrant article and the Thompson Rebuild project. Both stated that they would support the warrant article because we need to preserve the option noting that the language is 'contingent', that there will be another public hearing with parks and recreation and the conservation commission because the field falls under article 97. They encouraged parents and community members to attend Town Meeting. Further Ms. Rowe explained that all of the boards (BOS, SC, FinCom, CPC) in Town are 100 % supportive of a new school

Kevin Nigro reported that the estimated total construction cost of the project is between \$30 – 33 million with a reimbursement rate from MSBA currently at 47.21%. He also outlined the next steps of the project:

- Submittal of the complete project on 12/1 to MSBA
- meet with the full board January 26, 2011,
- if approved, the schematic design takes place and is submitted to MSBA on May 1, 2011,
- July 25, 2011 MSBA board meets, if approved the town has 120 days to obtain funding from Town Meeting to finance the project.
- November 24, 2011 deadline for securing town funds for the project
- Failure to secure funding means the project has to start over.

Tobey Jackson explained that as parent liaison he will send out email updates and stated that any interested community members or parents leave their email address on the sign up sheet to receive updates. The audience was also encouraged to leave any other questions on the question sheet.

The hearing adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Recording Secretary