

1 Joint Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

2 Thursday, March 26th, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 04 16 2020

4 Attendees Via Webinar:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent

6 Committee Members: Amy Facey- Chair, SCSB Member, Pim Grondstra- SCSB Member, Ellen
7 Grudzien- ASB Member, Tom Gauthier- ASB Member, Shannon Gascoyne, Amherst NH,
8 Christine Grayson Amherst NH, Victoria Parisi Amherst NH, Brian Coogan Amherst NH, and
9 Jeanne Ludt Amherst NH

10 Public: None

11 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

12 I. Call to Order

13 **Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee, Ms. Facey called the meeting to order**
14 **(via webinar) at 6:05 PM.**

15 II. Discussion

16 Ms. Facey requested an update from the Communication/Strategy/Speaker's Bureau
17 subcommittee.

18 Ms. Grudzien noted that the Amherst Budget was passed.

19 Ms. Gascoyne added that the next issue of the Amherst Citizen is April 7th and she would like to
20 thank the voters. They have not met since the vote passed.

21 Mr. Gauthier asked if it was fair to give an outline what the next immediate steps will be.

22 Ms. Facey replied that they have that on their agenda and Superintendent Steel will be able to
23 give them an update of where they are.

24 Ms. Gascoyne added that the communication committee can get together and strategize and it
25 will depend on what they are able to do. She added that she has a draft.

26 Ms. Grudzien offered to help.

27 Ms. Facey added that Mr. Brian Coogan is also on the call tonight.

28 Mr. Grondstra, (Project Management subcommittee) added that will review the Slack channel
29 just in case he missed something.

30 Ms. Facey inquired where they are with the Architectural and Engineering study.

31 Mr. Steel asked if he was right to think that they were still looking for Lavalee and Brensinger to
32 1. Do a facilities study to evaluate each school, 2. Programming and Visioning, 3. District-wide
33 Master planning, 4. Site Studies/Investigations, and 5. Conceptual Design.

34 He then asked the committee if he was going in the right direction.

35 Ms. Ludt commented that it seems like an either renovate or new construction.

36 Mr. Steel commented that an architect will help them weigh the various costs so that they can
37 make informed decisions. Additionally, they will most likely recommend hiring a Construction
38 Manager and Civil Engineer. He did reach out to them the day after the vote and Lavallee and
39 Brensinger and are excited to be moving forward. He will then invite them to come to the next
40 meeting.

41 Ms. Ludt asked who informs them about the ideal grade configuration.

42 Mr. Steel responded that they do. They will tell them what they want, and they will design with
43 the various options and costs.

44 He then showed the committee the Souhegan 2.0 final document that was finished in May of
45 2019. He wanted the committee to see what has already been done on the Souhegan side of
46 things. It is the Trello Board already.

47 This document lays out all of the things that they would recommend be done to Souhegan. You
48 can see that the center of the building is redone, it is a major project for the building. At the
49 bottom is the hard cost of \$31,745,668.

50 Ms. Grudzien commented that they are potentially looking at consolidating three buildings. She
51 asked about their choices.

52 Mr. Steel explained that it will be very basic at first, they will then pick an option and then get to
53 the conceptual design phase.

54 Mr. Gauthier questioned who they will report back to.

55 Mr. Steel replied that this committee is a subcommittee of the SAU #39 Board. They are tasked
56 with reporting back to the SAU Board and should be providing information back to their
57 respective boards.

58 Ms. Gascoyne asked about the costs for the three additional people.

59 Mr. Steel commented would prefer to have three people work for them during these processes,
60 an Architect, Construction Manager and Civil Engineer. They are most likely to disagree to their
61 benefit.

62 Ms. Facey asked about the timing of Lavalee and Brensinger and getting Clark/ Wilkins work
63 started.

64 Mr. Steel replied that they are ready to start, and it feels like it is 6-8 months of work. He is
65 expecting that they will do geotechnical work and that takes time to happen.

- 66 Ms. Grund asked if they are shut down at this time.
- 67 Ms. Facey remarked that she believes that they are an essential business.
- 68 Ms. Facey remarked if it is 6 months then it brings them to September. She asked if they could
69 they put it on the ballot next year.
- 70 Mr. Steel added in his experience, usually 9 months is a good amount of lead time. They will
71 also have to look at the economy. He will reach out to Lavalee and Brensinger to begin the work
72 if the committee is comfortable.
- 73 Ms. Ludt noted that they had a group of very generous people this past March voting but is
74 unsure about the future.
- 75 Ms. Grund asked if the Town has any major expenditures.
- 76 Mr. Steel replied that he does not think so.
- 77 Ms. Ludt noted that when she saw the Souhegan 2.0 project she was amazed by the renovations
78 that were suggested. She inquired about Souhegan Board members' opinions.
- 79 Mr. Steel remarked that there are new board members.
- 80 Ms. Facey added that they did have a presentation by SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms.
81 Michele Croteau, and identified some end of the year projects that they can complete with
82 surplus funds. She suggested that they have concurrent work streams going with the ASD. She
83 does not want to stop work in Amherst.
- 84 Mr. Steel recommended that Lavalee and Brensinger come to the next meeting and speak to the
85 detail of the Souhegan 2.0 document. It would be helpful.
- 86 Ms. Facey suggested that they set up regular meetings times so that they can plan ahead. She
87 then asked what can they do in the meantime on the Amherst side to lay groundwork.
- 88 Ms. Ludt suggested that they keep the momentum going and expand on the work that has been
89 done.
- 90 Ms. Gascoyne agreed that they use the different forms of media. She heard positive feedback
91 about when the work will start.
- 92 Mr. Steel commented that he feels confident with going through the process and looking for the
93 long term.
- 94 Mr. Steel remarked that a citizen had mentioned the idea of reconfiguring the buildings and
95 making AMS the elementary school.
- 96 Ms. Grudzien asked if it was because of the traffic in the Village.
- 97 Discussion ensued.
- 98 Ms. Parisi asked if Lavalee and Brensinger can come and look at Souhegan as well.

- 99 Mr. Steel replied, yes.
- 100 Mr. Gauthier remarked that the way that the economy is going he is apprehensive to putting it on
101 the March ballot.
- 102 Ms. Parisi asked about the regulations regarding elementary schools with stairs.
- 103 Mr. Steel clarified that the youngest students need to be at a level of exit and discharge.
- 104 Ms. Grund inquired if Souhegan is an emergency shelter for the Town. She noted that they
105 should keep that in mind regarding maintenance.
- 106 Mr. Steel commented that when Souhegan runs on a generator they cannot cook food as the fume
107 hood runs on electric.
- 108 Ms. Grund noted that they will have to review that.
- 109 Ms. Ludt asked about the 7th and 8th grade in the Annex and if Lavallee and Brensinger will look
110 at that.
- 111 Mr. Steel commented that with the growth of the special programs there is a space consideration.
- 112 Ms. Ludt noted that the reason why they had to build the Annex is because they were on the
113 verge of losing their accreditation.
- 114 Ms. Facey commented about the idea of making the Clark School a Senior Center/Recreation
115 Center/ Meeting Room space. She asked the committee for their thoughts.
- 116 Ms. Parisi suggested that they get the Board of Selectman involved.
- 117 Ms. Gascoyne suggested that they bring in the Recreation Department to the conversation.
- 118 Ms. Facey added that she will reach out to Mr. Peter Lyon.
- 119 Ms. Ludt remarked that the Rec. Department could move their offices over as it would be a
120 better location.
- 121 Mr. Steel noted that he has already emailed Lavalee and Brensinger to go through the Souhegan
122 2.0 document.
- 123 Ms. Facey added that she will reach out to the Board of Selectmen.
- 124 Ms. Facey suggested that they have it printed out.
- 125 She then noted that they should begin discussing future meeting dates.
- 126 Mr. Grudzien added that the next SAU #39 Board meeting is Monday April 13th, 2020.
- 127 Ms. Facey offered the date of Thursday, April 16th, 2020.
- 128 Ms. Gascoyne asked if they can meet sooner, she can be available.
- 129 Ms. Facey suggested that as soon as next Thursday (04/02) and April 16th.

130 III. Meeting Adjourned

131 **Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting at 7:10PM.**

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