

School Building Use Committee
Meeting Minutes
8-26-20

1. Meeting opened at 8:00 AM in the roofed entry area of 18 Jacobs Rd. Members present: Robin Jenkins, Mary Sumner, Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Pat McGahan.
2. It was moved by Mary, seconded by Lyra to approve the minutes of 7-23-20 as amended. Motion approved with 3 ayes and one abstaining. Mary will post on our webpage.
3. We discussed the use of 18 Jacobs Road to support remote learning. Pam brought committee up to date on the visit to Heath's town buildings by Mohawk Superintendent, Sheryl Stanton and the work by some parents and community members to have the Community Hall serve as a remote learning hub. Robin said she had sent letters to Mohawk Superintendent, copied to school committee member Barbara Rode, requesting to be able to use the former school building as a site for teachers to conduct remote learning. Robin noted that there are white boards, desks, and storage space available to teachers. Also that the school would be an excellent site for working with special needs students needing one on one instruction. We noted that in addition to Mohawk and Hawlemont there are Tech, Academy, and GCC teachers and students to consider in any plan to support remote teaching and learning. We noted that any use of the building would need to be preceded by a re-opening plan. Finally, we noted that the former school building is walk-in ready to support remote learning with excellent ventilation, separate outdoor entrances, the children's library, and desks and chairs.

We agreed that this information would be included in our report to the Select Board. The Report to the Select Board was reviewed. Several amendments were suggested, highlighting items listed above, a correction on the number of screens installed and repaired (84 in all), and including the a list of three requests to the Board:

- that the SBUC's role in assisting with marketing the building be confirmed,
- that the committee members be designated as essential workers so we can full fill our duties to help maintain the building and oversee rentals and use.
- And that the Board come up with a reopening plan for town buildings that will ensure safe and equitable access and use.

Pat moved and Mary seconded that we submit the report as amended and give authority to the chair to incorporate amendments without coming back to the committee for approval of the final draft. Vote was unanimous.

4. We discussed how the committee can assist the Select Board with marketing the building. Heather Rowe, who has some experience in this has offered her services. Mary has identified free web sites for marketing commercial kitchen and office space. We agreed we would ask the SB to review the SBUC charge to confirm our role in helping to market the building.

4. We discussed the need for a thorough cleaning of the building and the possibility of a work bee to help with this. We signed a thank you card for Jack Gougeon and Lisa Maynard for their volunteer work on the grounds and the screens. We discussed the need for keys for Mary and Robin. Pam will talk to Tim about this and to make sure that the set keys we have for opening the building is complete. Pat agreed to be captain on maintenance issues and preparing the building for showing and marketing. We wondered whether we were going to need help with moving some of the heavier furniture.

5. We agreed to resume a more regular meeting schedule, perhaps meeting every two weeks to start.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Pam Porter, Chair