

## Rogers and Oxford Study Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Present: Albert Benac, Lisa Elliott, Nils Isaksen, Jeffrey Lucas, John Medeiros, Beverly Rasmussen, Gayla Reilly, Karen Vilandry, Barbara Acksen, Tom Alden, Pamela Kuechler, Sue Loo

Ex-officio: Selectman Bob Espindola

Guests: Gary Lavalette, Howe Alen

Absent: Paul Kitchen, Gail Isaksen, Jimmie Oliver, Rona Trachtenberg, Steven Desroches, Daniel Freitas

Minutes from the October 3, 2013 were approved.

Bob Espindola reported on the evaluations (mechanical, electrical, HVAC) done completed previously (2011) on the Oxford and Rogers buildings. Members commented on their desire to keep these two building as close as possible to their current exterior appearance; the likelihood that CPC would put requirements on the renovations of these buildings that would make it cost prohibitive for a future owner, and the unlikelihood that an application for a CPC funds would be granted.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to discontinue the application for CPC money and instead to work on creating our own restrictions on the re-use of Oxford and Rogers former school buildings that would maintain the historic value and appearance of these two buildings.

Bob Espindola said that the deed for the former Rogers School building is no longer enforceable but is subject to Mass general law. Howe Allen, realtor, said that deed restrictions can be made by the seller.

Karen Vilandry and Bev Rasmussen presented a revised mission statement draft. Following a discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted 9 yes / 3 no to accept the following:

*Rogers/Oxford Study Committee – Our mission is to provide the Town of Fairhaven MA, Board of Selectman with viable options for the former Rogers and Oxford School buildings that will maintain and enhance their neighborhoods and our entire community.*

*Suggestions will be give based on preserving the historic value of the original Rogers and Oxford buildings.*

*Consideration will be given to all the buildings for the educational, cultural, economic, social and general welfare of the public by the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and preservation of the buildings and to guide the character of the development so as to be consistent with the desired character of that portion of town.*

*We are committed to ensuring the fullest opportunity possible for citizens to express their views and have these views be carefully considered in determining the future of the buildings.*

Committee membership was discussed. New member Sue Loo was welcomed. The secretary will contact the three former members who have not been sworn in and one member who has been sworn in but none of whom have attend the the Sept, Oct an Nov meetings to confirm that they are no longer interested or able to fully participate in the committee. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to have Nils Isaksen, chairperson send the following letter to the Select Board:

*The Rogers / Oxford Study Committee has 17 members and we are finding that number to be too large for productive discussion and decision making. Our meetings are always open and we welcome visitors to sit in on our meetings and to offer their suggestions and expertise.*

*We have learned from reading the Advocate that the Select Board has appointed another member to our committee. In the future, we suggest that appointed committees be limited to a number agreed upon by the committee and that appointed committees be consulted before new members are added.*

The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on December 5 in the Banquet Room. It is expected that the meetings will need to be twice/monthly to accomplish our task before the agenda deadline for the May town meeting. Gayla Reilly will invite Bill Roth, Town Planner to attend the next meeting to discuss zoning and possible re-uses.

Lisa Elliott, sec'y