

1. **Call to Order**

Present:

- Mary Storrs, John Boynton, Kathleen Ogden Fasser, Kay Upham, Brian Miller, Zander Kessler, Robert Grom, Laurie Hunter, John Flaherty, Mike Mastrullo, Brian Schlegel, Susan Blevins, Hannah Yelle, Mary McCabe

Absent:

- Ravin Nanda, Barry Haley, Ryan Kane

2. **Public Comment**

- Beverley Bryant introduced herself to the committee. She is a member of Grass Fields for Safe Sports. She is in favor of using the former landfill for recreational purposes. She supports a track on the former landfill. She would like to see a grass field in the center of the track. She asked to be added to the stakeholder list.

3. **Reading of Minutes**

- *January 18, 2018*
 - John Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes of Jan 18, seconded by Brian Schlegel.
 - Discussion: Bob Grom introduced some typographical edits
 - The committee approved the minutes as amended.
- *January 24, 2018*
 - Bob Grom made a motion to approve the minutes of Jan 24, seconded by Kathleen Ogden Fasser.
 - Discussion: Bob Grom and Mary Storrs introduced several typographical edits.
 - The committee approved the minutes as amended.

4. **Communication and Correspondence**

- Mary Storrs reported that in the week since the January 24 public input meeting there had been very little correspondence. Steve Lane requested information pertaining to the RFI; Another individual requested a copy of the minutes
- Susan Blevins reported that she received a text from a Carlisle Resident. Mary Storrs reminded everyone that all correspondence should go directly to Mary or if received by a committee member the correspondence should be forwarded to Mary. Susan Blevins will forward the text to Mary. Susan Blevins told the author of the text that she should fill out the RFI. Susan Blevins shared a summary of the text with the committee. In her text Carlisle resident Gail Bernardin

noted that she had read through all of the committee's minutes and she noted that parking should be a priority; Ms. Bernardin is not in favor of a track; she is in favor of a hockey rink; a hockey rink is of interest because of the difficulty obtaining rink time (early morning practices); the hockey players practice at the Edge; Mike Mastrullo noted that the Edge was unwilling to adjust the practice times despite a change in the school schedule; John Boynton explained that the hockey team cannot set their own schedule at the Edge because they are a small user; Mary Storrs asked how early and how often the hockey team practices at the Edge; Hannah Yelle asked about parking passes, i.e., priority passes for the hockey team; the hockey team has been offered spots at the Beede Center

5. Reports and Issues for Discussion

● Feedback from January 24 Public Input Meeting

- Mary Storrs asked the committee members for their thoughts re the January 24 meeting
- This conversation was quite organic with multiple committee members speaking at different times on different issues related to public input
- Mary Storrs asked if the committee thought there was a need for a second public input meeting
- Mary Storrs asked if perhaps the committee should identify other CCHS activities where there was a need to regularly use a site other than the school facility
 - The committee identified: ice hockey, fencing, skiing (alpine and nordic), track, golf, indoor tennis club, squash club, ultimate frisbee team
 - In previous years the fencing team practiced in the old cafeteria (so did wrestling); this year Fencing chose to practice off site several days per week (setting up and breaking down equipment can be time-consuming)
- John Boynton added that the committee might also want to consider the number of students served by any proposal
- Kay Upham suggested that if there was support for a track the committee should consider a bubble as well
- Mary Storrs asked if any of the committee members wanted to add any other thoughts re the January 24 input meeting
 - Zander Kessler thought a track sounded interesting
 - Hannah Yelle liked the input re changing the culture around parking
 - Kay Upham - after reading the minutes - noted that no one really addressed the fact that this is a large, important town facility/resource, for e.g., town meeting is held at the high school, and there is a regular demand for parking; Kay Upham recalled a conversation with one of the custodial staff who said the building was used every day except Christmas
 - A discussion ensued re whether the building has shelter status; resident Cynthia Rainey said the shelter was at Harvey Wheeler

- Mary Storrs noted David Allen’s comment about support from town meeting for a ‘high quality initiative’; Mary Storrs asked the committee members whether they agreed with that assessment, particularly given the current challenges with the school budgets
- Laurie Hunter was asked to give a brief summary of where things stand relative to the CCHS budget
 - Laurie Hunter explained that there was a regional budget delta of approximately 863,000 (the difference between the School Committee’s approved budget and the Concord Finance Committee’s guideline budget)
 - Laurie Hunter summarized the proposed approach re cuts
 - John Flaherty added that these are cuts that follow a million dollar cut already identified
 - Laurie emphasized that the biggest issue was a drop in Carlisle enrollment (representing approximately \$500,000)
 - Laurie Hunter is looking at increasing athletic fees, incentives for early retirement, efficiencies of scale (this will take time to implement)
 - John Flaherty noted that the gap is shared between the two towns; Concord’s share of the CCHS budget is 75%
 - Laurie Hunter noted that there is an additional gap at CPS which impacts the town of Concord
 - Laurie Hunter added that there are other operational issues, i.e., the high school is several years old now; maintenance costs, etc.; she is trying to table operational issues that are not immediate
 - There is little appetite for the school to move forward with major new initiatives given the lack of funding for the current operational budget
- Mike Mastrullo asked about Concord Community Preservation Fund; John Boynton explained that the CPA gives approximately \$1.2 million in grants every year for affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space; widespread community usage is emphasized; John Boynton noted that more and more the town itself is seeking some of this money; John Boynton estimates that there might be about \$300,000 available year to year for recreation uses; he emphasized that it is a very competitive process; Bob Grom added that the CPA also looks for matching (2/3rds) privately raised funds
 - Kay Upham noted that the committee is not charged with finding funding
- The committee agreed that in light of the current school budget issues this would not be the year to request money at town meeting (and it is too late to get a warrant article)
- Kay Upham reminded the committee that we should consider the entire site; she thinks the committee should think about the long-term picture, i.e., not rush to recommend something that is permanent without thinking of the entire campus and the future
 - Kathleen Ogden Fasser agreed; She is concerned that the campus was never looked at as a whole, i.e., a master site plan with guiding principles; Kathleen Ogden Fasser opined that the committee might conclude that our recommendation is to suggest the creation of a master plan

- Bob Grom asked how much a master site plan would cost
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser estimated 30-50,000
- Several committee members responded that the campus had moved beyond the need for a master plan; Brian Miller noted that a master plan had been created as part of the process for designing the new building
- John Flaherty added that 85 of the 90 acres are already designed
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser responded that some of the ideas that have been raised involve a trade-off, i.e., moving practice fields to the former landfill site; she proposed that a master site plan would guide the committee re where different activities might fit as dictated by the master plan
- Kay Upham added, for e.g., parking, thinking long term, what if years later without the assistance of a master plan, the school realizes that parking should have been placed in a different location
- John Boynton noted that a master plan can be helpful; he was reminded of a plan that was proposed in West Concord ten years ago; the group had ideas, but no money; the ideas involved shops, restaurants, rail trail, etc.; many people thought the plan was foolish; John Boynton noted that 80% of what had been planned ten years ago is now reality; the committee might make a recommendation for a plan that would lay the groundwork for more efficient work later
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser observed that a master plan would help the committee and others visualize the site; the character expressed in the plan can be scripted in to whatever project follows
- Mary Storrs asked if members agreed that we needed a master plan
 - Laurie Hunter responded that parking needs to be a priority since the Administration spends far too much time dealing with the issue
 - Brian Miller agreed
 - John Boynton mentioned Julie Ann Cancio's idea (January 24 meeting) that perhaps additional parking might be a revenue generator; he thought her approach was creative
 - John Flaherty added that assuming a track was on the table if the track had 6 lanes instead of 8 lanes there would be parking available for 80-100 spots
 - Laurie Hunter added that the school was already using an additional 25 spots at the Beede Center
- A discussion followed about widening the road on front of the Beede Center (on the drainage basin side) to add parking; Mike Mastrullo asked about getting a warrant article for that work (it is too late); John Flaherty noted that it might be possible to get financing for that type of project, i.e., financing over 5-10 years; there is a potential warrant article for capital spending to be put forth the by the school committee for some paving and lighting on campus and it was

- suggested that the extra parking be done as part of that project; Brian Miller added that additional student spots do add some revenue
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser asked about tanks (instead of the drainage ditch); Brian Miller responded that it was significantly cheaper to build the ditch; Brian Miller asked about reusing granite curbs that might be dug up while widening the road (yes they can be reused);
 - Laurie Hunter opined that the committee might need some shorter term solutions re parking
 - Mary Storrs asked the committee for their thoughts regarding the need for a second public input meeting in February
 - Mary Storrs asked if the student forums had been set up
 - Hannah Yelle noted that amongst the school cross-country/track community there was widespread support for a track; She added the Rivers folks also expressed an interest for an open classroom; And, of course there had been a good deal of talk about parking, but she was not aware of other ideas;
 - Brian Miller said he would set up student and faculty forums
 - Tuesday and Friday, lunch blocks, the week of February 5, 2018
 - Mary Storrs expressed concern that perhaps the committee needed to more actively seek input from Carlisle
 - After additional discussion the committee decided that there would be two coffees added to the public engagement schedule in an effort to get more input, particularly in Carlisle
 - Mary Storrs, Mike Mastrullo, and Susan Blevins will meet at Ferns on February 13th from 8-9:30 a.m.
 - Mary Storrs will post information about the coffee in the Mosquito
 - Laurie Hunter will send an E-mail blast about the coffee to the Concord community; Susan Blevins will do the same re Carlisle
 - Mike Mastrullo will forward his summary of the committee's charge and notice of the coffees to the Concord Journal before Tuesday, February 6
 - A second coffee will be held in the CCHS LC at 5:00 p.m. also on February 13; Mary Storrs, John Boynton, and Mary McCabe agreed to attend the evening coffee
 - Both events are coffees, not public meetings; representatives of the committee will answer questions about the committee's charge and direct citizens to the website and RFI
 - The committee agreed to keep the Monday, February 26 deadline for RFI responses
 - Committee members agreed that it would be helpful to read the RFI's in advance of the Tuesday, March 6 meeting; the RFI's are to be sent to Ripley; Mary Storrs will arrange to have the documents scanned for electronic exchange with committee members
 - Brian Miller recommended that Mary Storrs respond to all previous correspondence by encouraging the sender to complete the RFI

- Brian Miller asked if Mary Storrs would create a spreadsheet with a list of all the ideas that have been presented so we can track them
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser suggested that perhaps one (or possible two) committee members take responsibility for presenting one of the RFI's (an effort to cut back on the amount of reading) and score the RFI using the rubric; this will hopefully produce a higher quality discussion at the next meeting
 - May Storrs agreed to make assignments for particular RFI responses to be reviewed/evaluated by specific committee members in advance of the March 6 meeting
- Bob Grom asked when the AUL would be finalized. John Flaherty responded February 6, 2018
- **Draft report to CCRSC**
 - Mary Storrs said she would draft a template and we could split up the writing of various parts of the report

6. Adjournment

Kathleen Ogden Fasser made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John Flaherty. All those present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.