

Union Building Rehabilitation Committee

Meeting Minutes April 12 2023

Located at Town Hall 511 Main St Dunstable MA

Committee Members Present: Leah Basbanes, Alan Chaney, Bryan Flynn, Walter Alterisio.

Members not present: Henry Fontaine, Sherry Kersey, Bonnie Ricardelli

Other interested residents present: Anne Davis, Joan Simmons, Jeff Rosen, Sandy Garafano, Suchi Mumford, Tim DiNicola

Meeting called to order by Temporary Chair, Leah Basbanes at 6:03 pm.

The meeting began with an introduction of the members of the committee, and then by the residents in the audience. Mr. Chaney then gave a brief background of the Union Building which was built in 1895 to unify the 5 1-room schools that were spread throughout the town. Much needed restoration work on the outside of the structure has been evaluated and studied by the Community Preservation Committee, and a plan has been prepared by Spencer, Sullivan and Vogt (dated Feb 21 2022) to do the exterior restoration and painting for approximately \$800,000.

It was noted that the GDRSD informed the Town that they no longer have a use for the building, will be breaking the lease agreement and returning the building back to the town in the spring of 2024. The school district was obligated to maintain this building and will be expected to contribute appropriately.

It was iterated that the task of this committee is to explore future feasible, economically viable and sustainable uses of this building, and the rehabilitation on the inside. A few ideas that were initially expressed include an arts center, museum, town department offices and meeting space, professional office.

Due to the amount of obligation set forth in the mission of this committee, it was decided that the number of members should be increased to 10. Several people in attendance expressed strong interest in joining. This request will be presented to the Select Board. The Committee also discussed that 6 months to complete the mission is not long enough and an update report at Special Fall Town Meeting, if there is one, would be presented.

A site visit to inspect the interior of the Union Building was set for April 22, 2023 at 10 am.

Motion to adjourn, made by Alan Chaney, seconded by Walter Alterisio, was approved unanimously at 7:08 pm.