

# **Common School Working Group Agenda**

## **Thursday July 24, 2025 6:00PM – 7:30PM**

### **Fairfield Town Office, Chester Arthur Room**

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#### **Agenda**

##### **1. Additions/Changes to Agenda. None**

##### **2. Welcome and Introductions.**

**Attendance:** M. Schreindorfer, Jeanne Hopkins, Ron Bocash, Greta Brunswick, Cathy Ainsworth (at the end)

##### **3. Municipal Planning Grant - RFP**

- Schedule Update. Greta updated the group on the RFP for the architect to complete the schematic design. It was advertised on the 18<sup>th</sup> and is due on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. So schedule is pushed out a bit from what was discussed at the last meeting, but we are on track to have a contract by the beginning of September.
- Plan for Proposal Review. Greta noted that a smaller faction of those on the working group list that have been regularly showing can participate in the architect proposal review if they would like. She will share once they are in.

##### **4. Municipal Planning Grant – Other Priorities Discussions**

- Community awareness. Greta noted that once there is an architect on board it will make sense to do some postings on front porch forum and facebook to start to build awareness that this project is happening.
- Survey. Greta noted that one of the first steps is for NRPC to work with the working group and the architect on a community survey for the architectural program that will be the basis of the updated design work.
- Septic Feasibility. Greta noted that she emailed the engineer that completed the septic analysis for the Selectboard to set up a time to ask some questions and discuss a potential scope of work for further analysis. She asked Cathy and Ron whether they would like to participate. It was agreed that it was fine for Greta to have an initial conversation and report back to Cathy and the Board.

##### **5. Fundraising**

- Capital Campaign Discussion. The group discussed the continued importance of building leadership for a capital campaign to raise funds for the restoration project. Becky Cassel has expressed interest in supporting but is not able to lead.
  - o Review draft project flyer/pitch. The group reviewed and made edits to the draft flyer. The option with green coloring was selected with some edits to the

text. Greta will finalize and try to get some printed for the Jig in the Valley on Sunday.

- Village Trust initiative Discussion

- Plan for submitting application. The group discussed the upcoming Village Trust application that is due on September 5. Greta provided a list of FAQ and application questions for the opportunity. She reminded all that this would be an application from the Fairfield Community Center, which is a non-profit with a compatible mission to restore and use the Common School for community benefit. The program allows for the creation of a new non-profit or to use an existing compatible non-profit as the village trust. The Selectboard will have to support the application and indicate that there is a path towards giving the Community Center site control via a lease, which could be like what exists for the Community Center building in East Fairfield.
- Greta coordinated with Cathy to be on the Selectboard agenda August 12, and possibly August 26 to ensure support for the required letter.
- The application is not complicated and only requires concise 1-2 paragraph response. Greta will set up a shared google drive for this smaller group, including Julie Wolcott and Greta as Community Center representatives, to work on the application together.

## **6. Other Business**

- Next meeting Thursday August 28 at 6:00 at the Town Office.