

Tisbury School Building Committee 2019-2021
5:30PM, Wednesday, June 8, 2021
by Zoom Cloud Conference due to Covid-19 Restrictions

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TSBC Members Present: Chair Harold Chapdelaine, John Custer,
Sean DeBettencourt, Peter Gearhart, Rita Jeffers,
Reade Milne, Jim Rogers by phone, Michael Watts,
Others: Steve Kelly, Melinda Loberg, Brycen Millen, Tony Peake,
PTO - Siobhan Mullin, Recorder – Marni Lipke,
Daedalus Projects – Christina Opper, Amanda Sawyer,
Tappé Architects – Chris Blessen,
Town: Town Administrator – Jay Grande, Select Board – Jim Rogers,
Town Medders – Deborah Medders,
MVPS: Prin. John Custer, Asst. Prin. - Melissa Ogden,
Julie Brand, Sean DeBettencourt, Kate Harding, Rita Jeffers,
Nevette Previd,
Press: MV Times – Rich Saltzberg,

* TSBC members late arrivals or early departures.

1. Call To Order & Virtual Meeting Reminders

• The 46th Tisbury School Building Committee 2019-2021 (TSBC) was called to order at 5:33PM. TSBC Chair Harold Chapdelaine reviewed the protocol for remote meetings occasioned by the pandemic. All participants were welcome. The meeting was being recorded for posting, along with all background documents, on the Project website <http://www.tisbury-school-project.com>.

- (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

2. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Attendance - was called.

Mr. Jim Rogers listened to the meeting by phone but did not have the technology to participate. The TSBC reluctantly acknowledged Ms. Rachel Orr's letter of resignation (see documents on file & below: #5).

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2021

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. READE MILNE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2021 MEETING WERE APPROVED: 7 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: PRIN. JOHN CUSTER—AYE, MR. SEAN DEBETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. PETER GEARHART—AYE, MS. RITA JEFFERS—AYE, MS. MILNE—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. CHAPDELAINE—AYE.**

6. Discussions for TSBC Member Speaking/Presentation at Town Meeting

(See below: Actions.)

Mr. Chapdelaine introduced Town Moderator Deborah Medders, who thanked the TSBC for the opportunity to address Town Meeting protocol and answer questions.

• Since Tisbury had very few bylaws on Town Meeting protocol it proceeded towards the warrant mostly by practice and culture. Tisbury Select Board (TSB) set date/times

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and gave final approval to all warrant articles, but once a Town Meeting started it was conducted as a townspeople/registered voters' meeting—a sort of bifurcation. In this sense it differed from TSBC public and informational meetings, in that intangibles came into play—although the Moderator would try to assist, especially with questions to TSBC resources.

- The Special Town Meeting (STM) would convene with the traditional prelude. The single article would be read followed by the main motion and second. At that time each of the two co-sponsors (TSB and Tisbury School Committee (TSC)) had the opportunity to address Town Meeting floor. Then TSBC was then offered about 10 minutes for a resource presentation to quantify, support and define the Article, possibly with visuals. Anyone speaking as a resource on TSBC's behalf had to be very clear and factual on the deliverable and the expertise, without opinions. The financial resource presentation would follow the TSBC presentation. Both these two resources were equally important and neither should stand alone. After the resource presentations the Moderator would ask people to queue up to microphones, probably taking questions to the TSBC first and the financial resource after—although this was somewhat dependent on the sense of the floor when the STM convened.

- The article was written as an up-and-down/yes-no vote as to whether the Town would borrow \$55,000,000 and State law directed Moderators to work within the scope of the article. This was a significant article and the issue was not simple so citizens would want to know and discuss what the \$55,000,000 was buying; however, if the discussion branched out too far, the Moderator would direct focus back on the Article scope. For example although project components would be mentioned in the resource presentations, not much discussion would be entertained on solar arrays, color, materials, etc.

- TSBC members then asked a number of questions.

- As resource/TSBC representatives, members would be speaking from the microphone facing Town Meeting floor, while a member speaking as an individual taxpayer would queue up for a microphone on the floor itself. It was important for a member to speak according to how they introduced themselves whether as a taxpayer and parent with an opinion or as representing the TSBC, e.g. possibly answering factual questions, etc. There were gray areas for example, members experience on the TSBC would give substance to and inform their individual opinions, however they should be cautious and clear.

- If the TSBC wished to call on a non-Tisbury-resident resource person, for example a teacher or an architect, they would request permission from the Moderator, who would ask the floor if there were any objections.

- For purposes of this STM it was important to stand unified with the sponsors and financial resource as to the impact of the article.

- Ms. Medders and the TSBC exchanged thanks.

- Later in the meeting the TSBC discussed specifics.

- Owners Project Manager (OPM) Daedalus Projects anticipated that the TSBC would give the presentation with use of the OPM and Tappé Architects for support/back-up.

- The presentation should be a straight view of the facts without overkill.

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- TSC Chair Amy Houghton would be a good choice to speak as co-sponsor since she had long experience with the School and with the previous project. It was expected that Mr. Rogers would speak as the TSB co-sponsor.
- Mr. Chapdelaine having conducted 10-12 coffee talks and public forums had honed the TSBC message and could speak to questions and on the presentation.
- There was a discussion on the balance of fields represented by speakers (construction, Select Board, school committee, Town finances, etc.) that should include an educational representative in the person of Prin. Custer who was the public face of the School. Prin. Custer was honored to speak, although he emphasized the need to follow a script, to restrain his passion and advocacy for the project. The TSBC took notice of both the importance of education and the community needs/project impact.
- The TSBC briefly reviewed the presentation, the overlay of the old and proposed design, walking through school floors, talking about spacing configurations, cafeteria, gym, library/media centers, replacement of the "white house" space with the administrative wing, disability access, preservation of open space, flexibility, etc.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE TSBC TO HAVE A JOINT PRESENTATION BY MR. CHAPDELAINE, MR. CHRIS BLESSEN OF TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS AND PRINCIPAL JOHN CUSTER.

5. Committee Discussion Regarding TSBC Chair's Response to MV Times Article
(See documents on file.)

This was not a letter to the Editor nor an Op Ed piece, but a response requested by the Martha's Vineyard Times. Mr. Chapdelaine chose a written format to be as comprehensive and responsible as possible. Given the ensuing communications and Ms. Orr's resignation the Chair asked members for their response and would take his cue from them.

- The TSBC generally expressed the following opinions.
 - They thanked Mr. Chapdelaine for his response in a difficult situation.
 - Everything in Ms. Orr's memo was heard or discussed previously, and sometimes voted. The questions and response were answered; the Committee would move on.
 - Members expressed appreciation for Mr. Chapdelaine speaking for himself and not for the other members.
 - The entire situation presented a particular challenge and there was some regret and ambivalence around the events. TSBC concerns about the vagueness of "challenges to functionality and built-in inequities" in Ms. Orr's letter, resulted in a request to document the perceived problems.
 - Members validated Ms. Orr's concerns, while also understanding them to be part of the difficulties of working on a renovation/addition.
 - They saluted her dedication and contributions to the project, valued her courage in asking hard questions that improved the design, expressed their respect for her opinion which often differed from theirs and were sorrowful not to have her voice on the Committee at the 11th hour.
- Although it was for the appointing bodies to formally acknowledge the letter, the TSBC regretfully accepted Ms. Orr's letter of resignation.

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4. Communications Working Group Update (See below: Meetings/Events & Actions.)

- Coffee zoom meetings continued, but the last one, which was fairly well attended, was unfortunately Zoom bombed and had to be cut short.
- It was agreed that there should be one more public forum/Zoom meeting between the STM and the ballot.
- The Group looked forward to seeing all TSBC members at both the Saturday STM/ Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and the Sunday STM.

9. Public Comments – None

10. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair Within 48 Hours of the Meeting

The TSBC received correspondence from Mr. Tony Peak, which was appended to these Minutes.

11. Adjournment

The TSBC expressed great gratitude to Ms. Christine Opper, Ms. Amanda Sawyer, Mr. Blessen and all the people behind the scenes whose tremendous amount of work and support made this project possible. The TSBC walked a long road to this point.

- There was a brief discussion on closing protocol in regard to a final debriefing meeting and approval of Minutes (see below: Actions).

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DEBETTENCOURT AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:02PM: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: PRIN. CUSTER—AYE, MR. DEBETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. GEARHART—AYE, MS. JEFFERS, MS. MILNE, MS. ORR—AYE, MR. ROGERS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. CHAPDELAINÉ—AYE.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- STM/ATM – 1:00PM, Saturday & Sunday, June 12 & 13, 2021 – Tisbury School
- TSC – 3:00PM, Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – Zoom
- School Project Public Forum – 6:00PM, Wednesday, June 16, 2021 –Tis. School
- Ballot/Election - 8:30AM-4:30PM Thursday, June 17, 2021 & 7:00AM-8:00PM Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Appendix B: Actions:

Mr. Chapdelaine

- contact Town Hall re: reserving STM front seats, including for resource people.
- submit list of resources to Town Clerk who will share it with the Moderator.
- confirm projector and screen.
- contact Prin. Custer, Mr. Blessen re: presentation tag team.
- contact Town Clerk re: final TSBC meeting protocol.

Prin. Custer – coordinate with Mr. Chapdelaine re: tent setup for 6/16/21 forum.

Mr. Chapdelaine/Mr. Watts – contact Amy Houghton re: sponsor presentation.

continued

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Appendix C: Documents on File: Available at:

<http://www.tisbury.mvyps.org/> click on Tisbury School Project

(Official archive hard copies on file at Tisbury Town Hall & Tisbury School):

- Agenda 6/8/21
- Chapdelaine cover email re: MV Times – Letter May 24, 2021 6/2/21
- Pursuant to your request for a copy of TSBC member Rachel Orr’s letter... (3 p.)
- Chapdelaine cover email re: HazMat Report 6/3/21
- Final Report for Hazardous Materials Identification Study at the Tisbury School, Tisbury, Massachusetts, Project No: 220 074.00 (19 p.)
- Peak cover email re: Regarding Letter Sent by Harold Chapdelaine to the Martha’s Vineyard Times 6/8/21
- Peak letter 6/7/21

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Harold Chapdelaine – TSBC Chair

Date

Approved by the TSBC 9/9/21