

Town of Bridgewater  
Committee to Save the Bridgewater Village School Building  
Minutes of December 5, 2017

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Location: Bridgewater Grange Hall  
Date: December 5, 2017  
Time: 5:30 PM

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35 PM by Brian Bontrager

**Present:** Brian Bontrager, Collen Doyle, William Young, Vicky Young, Hank Smith, and Joni Kennedy

**Visitors:** Marge du Mond and Raymond Kennedy Sr.

We reviewed the meeting minutes from our November 7, 2017 meeting. Collen Doyle made the motion to approve the minutes and Hank Smith seconded the motion.

There was discussion regarding Bob Haynes from Green Mountain Economic Development and Richard Amore who will be giving a presentation at the next Select Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 4:00 pm regarding the Community Development Block Grant – Planning Grant/Village Designation. They will tour the Village and School before the meeting. We will inquire regarding the timeline of the grant and what falls under the feasibility study and market analysis.

There was discussion regarding interest in the Bridgewater Village School Building. Several people have come forth and expressed their interest in the building.

We talked at length about building and strengthening our community by using and taking care of our assets, preserving and revitalizing our downtown infrastructure and the important icons in our community. This can create new places, businesses and a thriving little Village Center allowing for more economic growth and opportunities for towns people, young people/families and visitors which can create a vibrant town and community.

There was discussion about the idea of having solar speed signs in the village like the one by the Brewery to help travelers be more aware of the speed change

upon entering the village. This could help reduce their speed which could also help reduce ticketing in our community.

Hank Smith brought up the idea of a listserv in the Town and suggested we look into one.

Brian will look into having Robert Buchan and a State Fire Marshall come and do a walk through the building in regards to codes for fire and safety

The question came up as to whether the town has had the moisture issue evaluated on one of the walls in the basement of the school? Vicky will check with Nancy to find out the status of this and if it has been looked into. Has the town received an evaluation report and/or recommendations?

We will do some research on how other towns, villages and cities have repurposed and/or reused their old historic buildings and schools.

Here are the ideas we narrowed down at our last meeting for  
**Re-Purpose and Re-Use**

- 1) Meeting House for Town /Multi-Purpose Community Center/ Emergency Shelter for Town
- 2) Cultural Arts/Enrichment Center, after school Activity Center
- 3) Educational Classes, Trade, Tech, Musical, Arts, Yoga
- 4) Adult/Child Daycare
- 5) Laundromat
- 6) Post Office
- 7) Pop up Maker Space

Bill Young made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Collen Doyle seconded the motion.

Brian Bontrager adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM

The Committee meets once a month on the **first Tuesday of every month at the Bridgewater Grange Hall at 5:30 pm.**

We invite community members to join us at our monthly meetings as we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joni Kennedy