

RTM Education Committee meeting
June 3rd
Town Hall Auditorium

RTM Members present:

Sarah Neumann, Lucy Fiore, Clara Sartori, Petr Marousek, Ed Washecka,
Curtis Butler, Karen McNicoll, Janet Grogan, Liza Lucas, Barbara Thorne, Sheila Sherwood, and
Theresa Vogt.

Absent: Jay Hardison, Carolina McGooley, Ann Reed

Meeting began at 8:37 pm

Motion to move the item on the agenda regarding the discussion on the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance to the first item on the agenda. Motion approved with all in favor.

Discussion on the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Discussion to answer question tonight by Monica and Frank on Public Works to answer questions before the RTM meeting on June 10th.

Question - Is the enforcement/compliance officer a paid position or volunteer? Answer: volunteer

Discussion on the Ox Ridge Building Committee

Duke Dineen and Dian Boston and Kadi Lublin from the Ox Ridge Building committee joined us for a discussion about the upcoming proposal regarding the upcoming request for \$63 million to be approved by the RTM on June 10th.

Questions-

Regarding the \$600/per gross square foot, is this from estimates out in the field right now for costs? Yes- from other projects in the state of CT.

Regarding the number of children currently and proposed at Ox Ridge? 417 now, 479 projected with the ELP consolidation, enrollment projections from Malone and McBroom, and the other building projects in town.

Why would we not increase projected enrollment to avoid dealing with the issue of building too small of a school that we might outgrow in a few years? Goal is flexibility and future use, however a very tight site that will restrict size.

Do enrollment numbers at ELP include typical peers? Yes

For ELP, is it a problem to have all the children at a school that is not convenient to them geographically? No

For ELP Classroom size and playground specs? Using Ed Specs for the build and experts have given input into consolidating space. Officials at the school create the ed specs. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be on the first floor.

Is there classrooms built into the Ox Ridge plans for Special Ed? Yes.

Question regarding contract negotiations and studies in the Ox Ridge Study- this process is being done as estimates for the state grant program submission. \$60 million will be an estimate for the cost of the project. The costs will include energy efficiencies and ongoing costs will be reduced.

Is security being addressed? Yes- the Darien Police Dept is involved in the planning process.

What is the cost of not doing this project right now? Currently Ox Ridge costs the town \$5MM to remain open.

What are the reimbursable costs? There is a long detailed document as to what can be in the project submission, i.e., cart from Chromebooks can be in the estimate but the Chromebooks cannot be in the estimate.

Vote- for the full amount of \$63 MM for the Ox Ridge Building Committee. Theresa Vogt made the motion and Lucy Fiore seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion regarding the Diller property and the X Country trail by DHS

Jen Montanaro from DAF was present. The X Country path being proposed will cost \$300. DAF gifting to the town the amount. The Loop is around the DHS property. Students will use the property and residents may use it in the off hours. The idea is to keep large numbers of kids off the street while running. This might allow DHS to have a X Country meet at the school. The Diller property, owned by the town, has had use unplanned as of yet, for the past 30 years. Diller is the vast wooded area off Noroton and Nutmeg, adjacent to DHS. The path will follow around the HS, behind the fields. The idea was well received. Not an enormous use planned, with only 1 or 2 meets hosted by DHS. The BOE will have to manage the safety of the runners during a meet. If school is in session, the loop will not be accessible. The Diller property will have two loops in the woods for running.

Questions

Is land accessible right now? Yes- it is flagged right now, and include some wetlands.

How much wetlands is in the property? Currently the lands behind Holly lane, within the Parks and Rec purview.

Do the neighbors of DHS approve? Dr. Landon has reached out to the neighbors.

Diagrams and plans for this property are on the P & Z site. There have been 3 meetings with the EPC (hearings). P & Z has approved the application. The money from DAF will be used on the creation of the path and upkeep. P & Z has vetted this. The BOE will approve after the town approves this at the RTM meeting on June 10th. Maintenance on the property will be \$3-\$4K per year, for the town and BOE to split.

Vote- for the acceptance of the gift of \$300k from DAF for the X Country path on the Diller property. Barbara Thorne made the motion, Lucy Fiore seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

Vote- to approve the May 6th meeting minutes. Clara Sartori made the motion, Lucy Fiore seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

Sarah Neumann made a motion to adjourn. Lucy Fiore seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neumann

RTM Education Committee Clerk