

**Minutes  
of the  
Devotion School  
Community Public Meeting  
8 June 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Devotion School Auditorium, 345 Harvard Street**

*Meeting called to order by Selectwoman Nancy Daly*

Selectwoman Daly began by welcoming people to the meeting and followed with introductions and a brief history of the project to date.

The design team then provided a review of the school and site design with slides of the site plan, floor plans and exterior elevations. C. Offenbergl of Carol Johnson Associates (CRJA) reviewed the site plan. In addition to the access provided for Fire Department apparatus, the site includes two basketball courts, a natural base material turf soccer field, structured play areas, rain garden, school garden and three outdoor classrooms. The design is the culmination of years of efforts and meetings with the building committee, town and school staff and the community. There were many different perspectives of how best to program the green spaces. The result is a design that strikes a balance and provides great use of a site that is limited in area and has other constraints.

P. Lewis then presented axonometric views of the planned building from both the Harvard Street entry and the Play Field entry which give one a picture of how the new building will fit into the surrounding neighborhood by showing it in relationship to adjacent properties. He then displayed slides of building elevations on Harvard Street, Stedman Street, Babcock Street, the Play Field and the Stedman Street and Play Field entrances. Overall the design makes use of fenestration and exterior materials in ways that are appropriate for the elevation in question. For example, the Harvard Street elevation is respectful of the 1913 building and Devotion House that will remain. The Stedman Street and Babcock Street elevations make use of color and texture to moderate their scale. The Play Filed elevation is a bit more varied to reflect the fact that it overlooks the play areas.

P. Lewis then presented slides of the floor plans. The school is being enlarged significantly to reflect a growth in enrollment and to accommodate new and/or mandated programs. It is designed such that the classrooms are located in the wings, three grades per wing. Clustering classrooms in the wings helps give the school a feeling of being smaller than it is. Common areas such as administration, library, cafeteria and multi-purpose room are located in the middle of the building, which is flanked by the wings. This gives students of different age groups a chance to mingle when not in their classrooms.

J. Hirst of Shawmut Design and Construction (SDC) then spoke to issues related to the actual work of constructing the project, which is planned to commence in early July. Pending approval of the work by the Town of Brookline, school operations will be

relocated to Upper Devotion School and 30 Webster Street. Beginning June 21, the construction fence will be installed and temporary office and storage trailers moved on site. One (1) basketball court will remain outside of the fence and available for use by the public for a certain period of time. Eventually that too will become part of the work area and off limits. J. Hirst presented the "Site Logistics Plan" which has been submitted to the DPW and is pending their approval. Much of the trucking will come down Babcock Street, taking a left onto Devotion Street and into the site. They will then typically leave via Stedman Street and then out to Harvard Street. There will also be significant use of the loop drive around the Devotion House to conduct operations that relate to that part of the work area. The entire site will be fence and said fence will have vision scrim. Most of the current sidewalk along the Stedman Street property line will be taken off line and fenced. Pedestrian traffic will be on the other side of Stedman Street. Temporary storage and office trailers will be located at the rear of the site.

Mr. Hirst presented a summary of the current schedule, which among other things shows the project date of Substantial Completion of 31 July 2018.

Mr. P. Tabrizi of SDC then spoke about noise, dust and rodent control measures as well as work hours.

Dr. J. Connelly then discussed staff parking, and student access to 30 Webster Street. A number of locations nearby have been identified for staff parking including Stop & Shop and local parking lots. Parents may drop their children off at Marion Street as the Town is finalizing an agreement with Verizon to construct a temporary walk way to the rear of 30 Webster Street from Marion Street. He expressed great gratitude to both Stop & Shop and Verizon for their willingness to help. The rear parking lot of 30 Webster Street will be transformed into a play area for children. He went on to show slides of typical spaces in that building.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer and comment period from attendees. Among the concerns was parking for construction personnel. J. Hirst indicated that SDC is working with the Traffic Department to secure a limited amount of spots on Stedman Street that had been permit parking for teachers. Beyond that subcontractors are advised there is no parking provisions for their employees and they are encouraged to van-pool, use public transportation or have their employees park in remote lots. Members of the public are encouraged to notify the Brookline Police Department when and if they notice violators. In addition, they may notify SDC.

A number of neighbors expressed opposition to the widening of Stedman Street as part of the project and the trees that will be removed in connection with it. The widening has been part of the plan from inception and is in response to issues of traffic congestion, safe drop off of students and to provide access to the building by emergency vehicles. Although a number of trees will be removed for the work of the project, a significant number of existing trees will remain and there is included a robust planting plan. In addition, the project team has made effort to save trees by replanting some off-site, aerating and feeding others to remain and providing sheet pile and lagging at the corner

of Stedman and Harvard Streets in an effort to save a number of trees in that area as well. There are also efforts underway to move three birch trees to a suitable location on site prior to construction. The project team has been working closely with the Town of Brookline tree warden and others on these endeavors.

Selectwoman Daly agreed to a meeting of the Building Committee to continue the site discussion.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Guigli, Owner's Project Manager

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