



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

**PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER
12 Winslow Street
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657**

**Tuesday
December 11, 2012
5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson,
Jamie Kryszkiewicz, and Shannon Patrick.

Member Absent: Lory Stewart (excused)

Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes:

There were none.

Superintendent's Update:

There was no update because the entire meeting had been added to address the neighbors' playground concerns and to, once again, define the location.

Unfinished Business:

Playground Update

Richard Waldo, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), was invited to the table to describe the study he had made of possible locations for the playground. He was asked to look into alternative locations for the playground.

Mr. Waldo identified 5 locations that were considered and the strengths and weaknesses were detailed of each:

Original Location

Pro's: Level Grade
Location to School Nurse

Distance from Underground/Overhead Utilities

Con's: Will need small retaining wall
Removes 10 Parking Spaces (5 replaced after construction)

Alternative "A"

Pro's: Location to School Nurse

Con's: Will need 3 large retaining walls at significant cost
Removes 14 Parking Spaces (no replacement after construction)
Close Proximity to Roadway (Safety)
Moderately Close to Utilities

Alternative "B"

Pro's: Minimal Parking Space Removal (5 total)
No Retaining Wall Required

Con's: Proximity to Roadway (Unsafe)
Proximity to Utilities
Planned Location for Proposed Generator
Distance to Nurses Station

Alternative "C"

Not a viable location as the area is too small for a playground

Alternative "D"

Pro's: Location to School Nurse

Con's: Size of area is too small (tight fit)
Existing Drainage Basin and Overflow Area
(Washout will occur)

Mr. Waldo (a P.E.) said that in his opinion, the current location is the best location for the playground.

Thus, as promised, alternative sites were explored and all found to be lacking in one way or another as detailed. A map of the different proposals was also handed out to everyone.

After Richard Waldo finished his presentation, Dr. Beth Singer also went over much of the same points made during the discussion and eventual conclusion.

Kathleen Fitzgerald, owner of the Fairbanks Inn, said that the biggest con for the original location is the devastation to a business, her business. She had several suggestions for relocating the playground but they had all been thoroughly explored and rejected due to the explanations already made in these minutes. She even suggested placing the generator elsewhere; this is almost ready to be acquired through a grant and it's location is sensitive.

Kerry Adams, wanting to appease the problem, asked if the generator would be too heavy for a roof installation. Ans: Much too heavy and large.

Ms. Fitzgerald then asked - there's no wiggle room? - referring to the generator. Rich Waldo said - It's just not a good spot. The generator needs to be near the electrical panels.

Mr. Waldo then discussed sound buffers as an alternative to a different site. It might be better to look into sound barriers.

The meeting wore on with the same questions being asked and answered.

Ms. Fitzgerald was also given the same information when she suggested - for a compromise - the PSC might be thinking about the impact on the local businesses.

Beth Singer said that during the school year we will use the playground on a daily basis between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Also signage will prohibit any use after sundown. Beth also felt and advised - if you find that the playground is being abused then it would warrant taking action - as in call the police - so starting with it open to the public is appropriate - in season these parking lots are very full which will limit accessibility.

Jamie Kryszkiewicz commented - who would choose the playground in the summer over the beaches.

Beth will be looking into a product called Acousta-Fence which purports to have noise abatement qualities.

Shannon Patrick said that the noise coming from the playground wouldn't be continuous. The children wouldn't be out there until after 11:30a.m.

Motion: Move to move forward with the playground in the present, planned location.

Motion: Cass Benson Seconded: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Vote: 4-0-0.

Shannon, the Chair, commented - "We've gone over it and over it and then over it some more and she feels that they've exhausted the subject.

Kerry said - get some information for the neighbors on the noise mitigation. We're putting a buffer in and the playground will have a minimal impact. We've offered to put monitoring in there and maybe as much sound proofing.

Beth said that white noise would be very helpful. Perhaps it might make sense - when this project is completed - to see what money is left, before deciding how to fund whatever sound proofing.

Cass said that she heard an installation costing \$2K could be noise killer. Maybe the neighbors who have been complaining might want to chip in for it?

Beth said if sound barriers are installed by the schools, that is using tax dollars. Is it ok to use tax money to reduce noise for neighbors? She didn't know the answer, but thinks it is a good question. If we're going to have wild, noisy happenings – we would go to Motta Field.

Adjournment happened at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Gaudiano

E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by Shannon Patrick, Chair on January 15, 2013