

September 29, 2021
**Historical Tours of the Red Brick School
and the History Museum**
MINUTES

Members Present: Monique Doyle, Jeff Livingstone, Phyllis Messere-Malcom, Lisa Oxford

Town Staff in Attendance: Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, Assistant to the Town Administrator Alecia Alleyne, Facilities Director Mike D'Angelo

Other Attendees: Cobi Frongilo

Town Administrator Jamie Hellen began the tour at 4:00 PM

Red Brick School

Mr. Hellen: From a town perspective, the CPC could consider bringing back and restoring the Red Brick School as it is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Red Brick School is an important historic project for the Town. Lead paint is on the outside as well as the inside of the building.

Mr. D'Angelo: The Town hired the firm of Russo Barr to do a budget study for restoration after the lead paint is taken out. It will not be a cheap or easy project.

Modern products could harm restoration. "Old" products will have to be replicated and some "old" processing methods will have to be used as were used during the restoration of the Library.

Ms. Oxford: So modern materials cannot be used?

Mr. D'Angelo: We will have to wait for answers. Dry ice is used now for lead removal as sandblasting is no longer used.

Mr. Hellen: For signage, the National Registry has certain requirements. Lead paint must be removed before any plantings are done.

Because the Metro West Robotics Club, a nonprofit, has been using the Red Brick School, the building has been in continuous use. The floor and foundation have been stabilized.

Mr. Livingstone: What about the attic and the basement?

Mr. D'Angelo: Yes to both.

Ms. Oxford: The flagpole has been around for a long time.

Mr. Hellen: The lightening rod is lower than the flagpole.

Mr. Hellen: How much work can be done in the next 12 months?

Mr. D'Angelo: Initial survey plans can be done, along with testing. Estimates can probably be completed by March 2022. People want historical character as was done is the Library renovation.

Gus Marzoratti (parent of Robotic Club member): The Red Brick School is a working place for the continuous education of the kids.

Mr. Hellen: Regarding the Washington Street Museum, there is no parking, there are too many issues, the cost of renovation is too much, ADA accommodations would have to be considered, and there is a question of how it would be used.

Warren Revel (Lincoln Street): Why is there a hold cut in the floor(Red Brick School) if this is an historical building?

Mr. Hellen: The floor is not original and the educational use of the building needed to be considered.

Mr. D'Angelo: There are 5 layers of flooring.

Mr. Hellen: The continual use status may be a detriment to those who have other ideas for the building's usage.

Ms. Oxford: Maybe the Friends of the Red Brick School would reform their group.

Vicki Earls: Maybe the National Registry could waive some recommendations.

Cobi Frongilo: Does the National Parks have funds?

Mr. Revel: What is the time frame?

Mr. D'Angelo: The bidding will begin at the beginning of March: paint, wood, and exteriors.

Mr. Hellen: In the spring of 2022, the CPC can begin making decisions and vote on projects.

Ms. Phyllis Messere-Malcom: The Red Brick School has never come before the Historical Commission.

The Franklin History Museum

Attendees: Monique Doyle, Phyllis Messere-Malcom, Jeff Livingstone, Lisa Oxford, Jamie Hellen, Mike D'Angelo, Alecia Alleyne and Mary Olsson, Chair of the Historical Commission

Cupola

Mr. Hellen: The cupola needs to be restored and shelving is needed downstairs.

Mr. D'Angelo: Wood must be stripped from the cupola and rotted wood must be replaced. The cupola will be hoisted to the ground and covered with a rubber cover for protection. The lead paint will be removed and the cupola repainted.

Ms. Olsson (president of the Historical Society): Will the restoration be historical?

Mr. Earls (resident): Are we looking for structural or aesthetic restoration?

Mr. Hellen: Aesthetic.

Mr. D'Angelo: We want to make the cupola durable for decades.

Basement

Mr. Hellen: Rebecca, the archivist, has been cataloguing in the basement. Shelving is needed so that museum items can be changed up and rotated. Shelving may be requested from the CPC.

Ms. Olsson: The Museum needs more space as more items are added. Papers and photos are put in folders and then will be put in a data base.

Mr. Hellen: Papers and photos are strategic as they bring in people. Some items can be on display continuously.

The cabinets need to be ripped out and replaced with shelving.

Mr. D'Angelo: A new HVAC system and a new boiler have been installed for \$500,000.

Ms. Olsson: Preservation quality boxes must be used for papers and folders.

Mr. Hellen: There is a level of criteria that Rebecca follows to make decisions about which items to keep.

Ms. Olsson: Sometimes items are exchanged among towns.

Mr. Hellen: There are no structural issues in the basement.

Mr. Hellen: A public hearing will be held in November to discuss the CPC process for applications and other resources and to investigate potential projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Doyle

CPC Clerk, Franklin, MA

