

Brookline Building Use Workgroup Meeting
September 15 2026 5:00pm
Location: Brookline Town Office or Zoom

Present in person:

Mike DeSocio (left at 6:16pm)

Andrea Seaton

Stan Noga

Mary Hicks

Fred Strasser

Emily Beer

Jessica Guerrero

1. 5:07 Mary, chair, called the meeting to order.
2. No changes to the agenda.
3. Unscheduled member of the public:
 - a. Bruce Mello spoke of an initiative regarding winterizing historic buildings. He also read some of the survey answers that folks had filled out earlier this year at a town wide open house where Brookline residents were asked (in essay format) what they wanted done with the various town-owned buildings. Bruce also wants us to consider getting an appraisal done for the town office and to put one or both of them on the market for rental assuming it gets approved by the SB.
4. Old business: Discuss public meeting, what should/could be added to the final BBUW report:
 - a. Mary noticed that not many people were interested in moving the town office.
 - b. Emily thinks that Mike's financial model was helpful to the public.
 - c. Mary thinks getting the BBUW report to the select board is the next step but there remains a question of who should be contacting lawyers and hiring people to answer very specific questions for us, would it be us or would it be the BBUW group. Mike thinks that asking the SB to utilize the ear-marked funds to get both buildings appraised could be BBUW's next move.
 - d. Stan believes we do not have a correct tax assessment for the school house which could become an issue if we decide to rent the building. He believes that getting an appraisal done on the school house may not be worth the cost because it would need to be appraised for several specific things like rental vs residential vs commercial and that would add a lot of cost..
 - e. Mike likes the idea of getting an appraisal because then it solidifies an important question of what people of the town think these buildings are worth versus what the professionals think they are worth.
 - f. Stan spoke of Windam's school which is comparable in age and size and a report that outlined estimated costs for remodeling the building, estimated sale value. It may or may not be helpful to compare this building with our own school house.

- g. Fred thinks that going through the process of getting an appraisal might not be worth the effort because it's another theoretical number when really it's only worth what someone will pay for it.
- h. Andrea thinks mailing out a survey to the residents of Brookline is the next step, then we would concretely know what the town wants to do and which path to pursue more aggressively. Mary thinks that writing the report first and then including that report with the survey would be a good idea. Mary thinks she can have a first draft of the report by October 6th. The BBUW report can include a history of how the BBUW group came to be and some history of the town office and the school building, it may also include some kind of disclaimer that the numbers used for financial models are best guesses.

5. Meeting adjourned at 6:24