

**Coolidge School Re-Use Task Force
Finance Meeting Room, Town Hall
Maynard, Mass.
4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20**

Present:

Task Force Members:

Lee Acker	Tim Hess	Jack MacKeen	Vicki Brown Stevens
Sally Bubier	Rick Lefferts	Ken Neuhauser	

Also Present:

Kevin Sweet, Maynard Town Admin. Ellen Duggan
Andrew Scribner-MacLean, Assist. T.A.

I. Introduction by Kevin Sweet – The town administrator gave a current status report of the Coolidge School that included the following points:

- The school administration has moved out of Coolidge and the School Committee has no interest in investing in the building to make needed repairs. The school administration is currently housed in Fowler School and has a few promising options for a more permanent home.
- It will take a Town Meeting vote, maybe in May, to discharge the ownership of Coolidge from the school to the town.
- The Coolidge School is currently zoned for residential use.
- Sweet said Coolidge is not on the list for capital improvements (the Fire Department and Green Meadow School are next in line for improvements) and there doesn't appear to be any interest in spending money to keep the building up.
- The Maynard Food Pantry is still operating in the Coolidge basement. Not sure when they'll move out.
- Some money is likely available to us for our needs, such as consultants or appraisals.

Sweet and Andrew Scribner-MacLean left the meeting.

II. General Discussion

- Ellen Duggan, although not a member of the Task Force, said she is willing and eager to help research **options for** the Coolidge for us.
- Jack McKeen noted:
 - Tappé Associates' assessed that it would take about \$2 million to repair Coolidge in a 2008 report.
 - The former town building maintenance supervisor who has since left for another job told Jack that bringing the Coolidge back to a usable state wouldn't necessarily cost

so much. (if the building was in private hands and not subject to municipal contracting requirements)

- One of our tasks is to decide if the Coolidge is historic or just old. (this determination has been made—it is historic) As a building with an historic designation, it may qualify for Federal and State tax credits that could help it be preserved and re-used if owned by a for-profit company.
- In Clinton, another former school building designed by the Coolidge architect was historically preserved and remodeled to become an assisted living facility. That company may have an interest in the Coolidge.
- Coolidge roof is currently leaking, but allegedly in one general area.

Also discussed:

- The School Committee wants to seal up the Coolidge, close down the furnace and put a heater on the pipes. Someone will check on the building once a week.
- The Maynard Historical Committee wants the Coolidge to be architecturally preserved.
- When will the Food Pantry move out? We didn't know and wondered if it wouldn't be better if the pantry stays in the Coolidge so that more people would keep an eye on it. The Coolidge is an asset to the town and shouldn't be allowed to deteriorate while its fate is determined. Vicki Stevens said she would talk to Mary Brannelly about when the pantry will move and also if she would join us in asking the School Committee if the pantry can continue there.
- We will try to schedule a walk-through of the Coolidge for our committee.
- Sally Bubier said she would facilitate our meetings.
- Vicki Stevens said she would keep the minutes.

III. Meetings

We decided to meet once every two weeks – the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Our next meeting is 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, in the finance meeting room, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Stevens