

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts
Neary Building Committee – Communications Subcommittee

March 12, 2025

9:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance by members of the public will be permitted.

Neary Building Committee:

Members Present: Roger Challen, Denise Eddy, and Jason Malinowski

Members Absent: None

Ex-Officio

Members Present: Stefanie Reinhorn, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Kathleen Valenti, Neary School Principal (arrived at 9:11 am)

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Gregory Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

- I. Call Meeting to Order
Jason Malinowski called the NBC – Communications Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:01 am.
- II. Approval of February 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Jason Malinowski asked for a discussion and a vote.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To approve the minutes as presented."

MOTION TO APPROVE
MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call

For: Roger Challen, Denise Eddy, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

- III. Debrief of office hours feedback
Jason Malinowski shared that the office hours held a few weeks ago on a Saturday had a significant turnout. A wide range of topics was discussed, with continued focus on the cost of living in Southborough. He mentioned that the community is still using cost

estimates from August, as the revised costs have not been officially presented yet. He noted that they received valuable suggestions for sharing information with the community, which will need to be vetted by the council before publication. The community expressed a desire for information in easily digestible segments. There was also more emphasis on alternative options, highlighting that the presented option is the one that will be taken to the Town Meeting. Additionally, there were questions about the relocation of fifth-grade students to Trottier Middle School, but no education professionals were present to address those concerns.

IV. Communication Plan Update

Jason Malinowski shared that the Neary Building website is being organized to better address community feedback, making it easier for users to find information within one or two clicks. He also announced that they will be scheduling three types of sessions over the next month, with open public meetings posted for each session.

The first session will focus on the project's costs and will be led by Jason Malinowski and Kathryn Cook. The second session, centered on education, will be led by Superintendent Martineau and Assistant Superintendent Stefanie Reinhorn. The third session will concentrate on specific site details, led by Mark Purple, the Town Administrator, Bill Cundiff, the Department of Public Works Superintendent, and Tim from Parr. There may also be a fourth session that provides an overview of the topics covered, serving as a preview of what the Town Meeting presentation will entail.

These sessions will be held both virtually and in-person. While cost information is prepared, it needs to be organized into a shareable format. The goal is to include a paragraph about the administrative team's work and a separate paragraph on costs. Once the Committee receives further information from the monitor, they can start working on the presentation, particularly since they will need to know the presentation's time restrictions. Jason noted that most of the presentation will likely involve Q&A and listening to community feedback.

Additionally, Roger Challen will hold office hours at the Senior Center on March 24th, while educational office hours will take place on March 8th and March 10th.

V. Review and release of FAQs

Superintendent Martineau announced that the frequently asked questions section on the Neary Building Project website has been reorganized. Jason and Kathryn Cook will be responsible for crafting and posting answers to the questions about tax impacts. Jason Malinowski encouraged Committee members to check the website whenever they have questions. If they find that their questions are not adequately addressed or are missing, they should send those questions to Superintendent Martineau and Jason Malinowski. This way, they can categorize and inventory the questions and draft clearer answers that are easier to understand.

VI. Public Comment (None at this time)

VII. Meeting Schedule – March 21, 2025

VIII. Other business that may properly come before the Committee (None at this time)

IX. Adjournment

Jason Malinowski requested a motion to adjourn.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To adjourn."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Roll Call

For: Roger Challen, Denise Eddy, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Jason Malinowski adjourned the meeting at 9:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Silva, Central Office Administrative Assistant

Office of Superintendent

List of documents used at this meeting:

1. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Agenda of March 12, 2025
2. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2025

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts

Neary Building Committee – Communications Subcommittee

March 12, 2025

9:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

May be watched or may participate in the meeting remotely with the meeting link at: <https://ma-southborough.civicplus.com/674/Virtual-Meetings>

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. No in person attendance by members of the public will be permitted.

Agenda (all items may have one or more votes taken to the extent action is required):

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Approval of February 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Debrief of office hours feedback
- IV. Communication Plan Update
- V. Review and release of FAQs
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Meeting Schedule
- VIII. Other business that may properly come before the Committee
- IX. Adjournment

Jason W. Malinowski, NBC Chair

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts
Neary Building Committee – Communications Subcommittee

February 28, 2025

9:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance by members of the public will be permitted.

Neary Building Committee:

Members Present: Roger Challen, and Jason Malinowski

Members Absent: Denise Eddy

Ex-Officio

Members Present: Stefanie Reinhorn, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Kathleen Valenti, Neary School Principal

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Gregory Martineau Superintendent of Schools

- I. Call Meeting to Order
Jason Malinowski called the NBC – Communications Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:04 am.
- II. Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2024, January 31, 2025, and January 17, 2025

Jason Malinowski asked for a discussion and a vote.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To all three sets as presented."

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call

For: Roger Challen, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

- III. Debrief of office hours feedback

Roger Challen noted that many questions did not focus on the current plan. Instead, attendees were primarily interested in why the Committee did not pursue different options, particularly regarding the potential use of Finn School, with some suggesting that a second floor should simply be added there. Concerns were raised about the costs associated with relocating students and the implications for younger students transitioning to Woodward School. Roger and Denise Eddy explained that at this point, the plan currently on the table is the only option available. If the plan is not approved during the town meeting, the Committee will revisit alternative solutions. Questions were also asked regarding whether the Committee had a backup plan. Additionally, concerns were raised about the hazardous waste situation.

Jason Malinowski expressed the need for a "Why not Finn School?" discussion in collaboration with the school administration. He pointed out that the District never applied for Finn School. When they attempted to explore it as an option, they were informed that they would have to go back to the end of the line. Jason emphasized that half of Finn School is 20 to 25 years old, while the entire Neary School is over 50 years old. He is uncertain how the Massachusetts School Building Authority would evaluate that difference. Jason also mentioned that recent discussions have shifted toward finding ways to boost the commercial tax base.

IV. Communication Plan Update

Jason Malinowski emphasized the importance of addressing recurring issues and directing people appropriately. He suggested dedicating specific space for discussions about the Finn School, hazardous materials, and costs. Jason believes that the broader committee needs to develop a contingency plan in the event of a failed ballot.

Superintendent Martineau shared a postcard. The feedback suggested changing the term "auditorium" to "Algonquin Regional High School" to accommodate overflow in the gym. Additionally, the town clerk's opinion is needed regarding the ballot question, specifically whether to include information about in-person voting versus mail-in voting.

Jason Malinowski asked for a discussion and a vote.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To approve the release of the postcard after consultation with the town clerk on some of the logical items discussed in the meeting."

MOTION TO RELEASE POSTCARD

Roll Call

For: Roger Challen, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

V. Review and release of FAQs (None at this time)

VI. Public Comment (None at this time)

VII. Meeting Schedule – March 7, 2025 and March 21, 2025

VIII. Other business that may properly come before the Committee (None at this time)

IX. Adjournment

Jason Malinowski requested a motion to adjourn.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To adjourn."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Roll Call

For: Roger Challen, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Jason Malinowski adjourned the meeting at 9:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Silva, Central Office Administrative Assistant

Office of Superintendent

List of documents used at this meeting:

1. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Agenda of February 28, 2025
2. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2024
3. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2025
4. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2025
5. Neary School Building Project Postcard