



PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District  
<http://www.isone.com/~merrpbc>

April 12, 2004  
Minutes

**Present:** K. Powell, T. Koenig, S. Heinrich, C. Morrison, W. Morrison, and School Board liaison P. McGrath

**Absent:** F. Rothhaus

**Also Participating:** Jody Vaillancourt, School Business Administrator M. Shevenell and Traffic Consultant David DeBaie

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by W. Morrison. He introduced J. Vaillancourt to the Committee and told them that she was running unopposed to fill the seat that K. Powell was vacating.

**Batting Cage & Concession Stand at Varsity Baseball Field**

W. Morrison told the Committee that members had met with representatives of the Friends of Baseball, M. Shevenell and D. DeBaie to walk the field and parking lot which would be affected by the addition of a batting cage and concession stand at the varsity baseball field. He noted that S. Heinrich had brought a school bus to help determine potential use of the parking lot for bus drop-off and pick up for the Masticola Elementary School. He also noted that C. Morrison and K. Powell had done a site walk with a school bus on an earlier occasion.

W. Morrison reported that, after the site walk, the consensus of those present was

- ❖ As a result of the current location of the varsity field, the original Committee plan for the back parking lot/bus lane is impossible.
- ❖ The batting cage can be located as proposed.
- ❖ Those walking the site felt the concession stand should be located nearer the stands rather than in right field.
- ❖ Some type of sidewalk in the parking lot along the right field fence should be installed.
- ❖ A one-way school bus drop-off and pick-up lane could be designed so that buses enter at the current entrance and exit on the side of the rock/ledge away from the baseball field.
- ❖ There was discussion about the cost and necessity of removing some or all of the ledge outcropping.
- ❖ There should be no parking along the fence near the school, i.e. the current row of parking spaces located there should be eliminated.
- ❖ There was discussion about putting some breaks in the fence to improve walking access to buses.
- ❖ There is room for 3 – 4 buses to line up at any time and that appears to be the most that would arrive at any one time.
- ❖ Trees between the O’Gara Drive and the current parking lot should be removed to replace the spaces lost by the new plan as well as add 10 ± parking spaces. However,

- ❖ some trees between the bus exit and the baseball field could remain.
- ❖ Gas and oil separators might be needed in the parking lot.
- ❖ Kindergarten drop-off and pick-up could take place in this parking lot as well.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION TO RECOMMEND the bullpen be located behind, and the concession stand located near, the 1<sup>st</sup> base stands as discussed with the Friends of Merrimack Baseball. Second: C. Morrison. S. Heinrich told the Committee he felt the locations as discussed would give the Baseball Friends what they proposed and still maximize any potential parking lot expansion. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **Other Traffic/ Parking Issues**

W. Morrison told the Committee that members had also walked some of the other parking areas that the Committee was reviewing with M. Shevenell and D. DeBaie. These included: additional parking lots along O’Gara drive next to the turnpike, the bus loop on Baboosic Lake Road by the new upper elementary school and the current front parking lot at the Masticola Complex.

Members discussed what to do about the student parking along O’Gara Drive. Members felt that something needs to be done to address this issue. Suggestions included enforcement, signage and additional parking lots. M. Shevenell told the Committee that PSNH has removed many of the trees in this area but there is ledge that would have to be addressed. There is about \$225,000 in the paving capital reserve fund, but the School Board is not “agents to expend” so any paving plan would have to be included as a warrant article at the School District Meeting. However, M. Shevenell felt that this amount was sufficient to address both the back parking lot at MES and any additional parking lots along O’Gara Drive.

Members discussed traffic patterns at the high school. It was noted that the one-way restriction on McElwain Street required action by the Board of Selectmen as it is a town street. However, any traffic restriction on O’Gara Drive would only require action by the School Board as O’Gara Drive is owned by the School District.

M. Shevenell offered to have D. DeBaie draw up some plans to address some of the parking issues that had been discussed. By consensus, the Committee accepted the offer, but decided that no decisions regarding the traffic/parking part of the School Board charge can be made until the School Board determines school start times/bus routes for next year.

### **Demographic Study**

W. Morrison told the Committee that M. Chiafery was going to ask the School Board to charge the Committee with doing a demographic study in conjunction with NESDEC. The District has received a grant from H & R. Block, which she would like used to fund this work. The intention of the study would be to look at population projections per elementary school over the next several years with an eye toward whether redistricting could be helpful. W. Morrison said he felt that this charge would aid a Committee goal of developing trigger numbers to be used to determine when a school expansion project might be needed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

S. Heinrich made a MOTION TO APPROVE all minutes since August 25<sup>th</sup>, subject to correction of grammatical errors. Second. C. Morrison. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Other**

P. McGrath told the Committee about 4 scholarships that his company will be funding.

On behalf of the Committee, W. Morrison thanked K. Powell and P. McGrath for their work with the Committee.

T. Koenig made a MOTION TO ADJOURN. Second: S. Heinrich. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich