



Long Lots School Building Committee

February 16, 2024

Hello Long Lots parents and all of our fellow Westporters.

This week, following the unanimous approval from the board of Finance on February 7th, the full RTM voted unanimously (with just one abstention) to approve the LLSBC's \$6.8M design funding request. This appropriation, which is part of the larger Long Lots projects, will cover the preparation of Design Documents (detailed below) in addition to borings, pre-construction CM services, and other consulting services.

With this design funding in place, we're excited to begin the next phase of the new Long Lots construction process.

The LLSBC committed during the RTM Committee meetings that we would begin to post regular updates (the goal is twice monthly) to keep everyone informed about how the process is going and to highlight upcoming and/or completed milestones. This Facebook communication process worked well with the recent renovation of CMS so we'll use the same formula for Long Lots. We will also have these updates posted on our Town LLSBC Updates page along with other useful project information.

Two things in addition to the regular updates: 1) we are working to have our LLSBC Updates page ([click here](#)) on the Town's website a bit easier to find by adding a link to the home page. Further, we're working with the BOE to add a LLSBC link on their home page as well as the Long Lots Elementary School page.

Since this is a first in what will be many updates, we'll get a bit more detailed. Subsequent updates will likely be shorter.

So, where are we?

1. **The revised 8-24 plan was approved in January by Planning and Zoning.** This new 8-24, a compromise driven change from the original 8-24 plan, contains a reduced multi-purpose athletic field on Terrace 1 (Terrace 1 is on the south side of the 13 Hyde Lane property). The details regarding the specific use of this new field are still to be worked out with Planning and Zoning and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Also, on Terrace 1 will be a rebuilt Garden. The location of the rebuilt Garden will be similar to the location of the existing Garden that will be lost during construction just as we will lose the existing multi-purpose field and lower soccer fields during construction.

2. **Design Funding and Process.** Approved and ready to go! Thanks again to the BOF and the RTM. This standard three-part design process: 1) Schematic Design, 2) Design Development, and 3) Construction Documentation will result in detailed drawings for the new school that will be used for State and Town approvals, bidding by the various trades who will work under the Construction Manager, and then for each step of construction.
3. **The RFQ/RFP Process.** This is now underway. Working with the town's Purchasing Department, the Committee will receive responses from Architects and Construction Managers who wish to be hired. The initial response date is 2/22/24. The Committee will review all of the responses and then we will establish a shortlist of respondents to interview. From these interviews the Committee will select the Architect and Engineer team who will design the new Long Lots School and site and the Construction Manager who will build the new school and site.
4. **Our Meetings:** We are working to have most, if not all, of our meetings in Town Hall recorded. Occasionally we may run into a conflict with a previously scheduled Board or Commission meeting that could preclude the Town's ability to record both meetings but we will endeavor to overcome that challenge. As we have in the past, we'll always open our meeting to public comment.
5. **Project Timing.** As we work with the design professionals and go through the first stage of the design processes (Schematic Design) we will be in a much better position to understand and then share a realistic timeline for key milestones. Two in particular: the commencement of construction and the completion of construction are of the utmost importance. We'll also include all of the required town approval steps along the way.

This is an exciting time for the students, parents and staff of Long Lots as well as the whole Town of Westport. The time will pass quickly and soon we will have a brand new sustainable Long Lots Elementary School. We look forward to working together and providing the updates to everyone in town.

That's all for now.