

Whipple Hall Subcommittee
Building and Facilities Committee
Minutes of 04-12-21
Zoom meeting, 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Beasley, Sherman, Cross

Absent:

Also present: Kim Hallquist, Dennis Mires, Jim Perkins, Karen Hoglund,
Peter Hoglund, Janet Kidder

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the 4-5-21 meeting were approved.

2. Discussion

- a. Dennis Mires confirmed that a written report will be provided, including summaries of the discussions on the various issues. A draft report will be available prior to the next meeting. Phil Sherman and Dennis Mires will review his expected fees.
- b. Dennis Mires offered a first pass at a list of issues and costs, that was referred to during the discussions that follow.
- c. Shades:
 - i. Proposed color is white, to match window trim and minimize fading. The arch fabric will look lighter as it is light filtering, not room darkening.
 - ii. The bar at the top of the retractable portion is 3” deep, with an additional 2.5” of folded shade when in the retracted position.

- iii. Warranty
 - 1. The cords are warrantied for seven years, but the vendor verbally indicates that they will replace the cords for an extended period if delivered to their shop.
 - 2. The shades have a lifetime warranty for defects, delamination etc.
 - 3. Sun fading is not warrantied, but a life of 25-30 years has been seen by the vendor without significant fading.
- iv. Deletion of the shade at the arch was discussed. The subcommittee confirmed their decision to recommend the fixed light filtering panel at the arch portion of the windows, based on the user identified need to reduce sunlight glare.
- v. A discussion was held regarding the use of shutters in lieu of shades.
 - 1. Common technique in churches.
 - 2. Not historic, given the 1918 construction date of the building.
 - 3. No evidence that shutters had ever been provided.
 - 4. Cost would be more than shades
 - 5. Would not cover the arch portion of the window.
 - 6. Structurally difficult to make strong, due to the size of the shutters.
 - 7. Difficult to operate, given the height of the windows.
 - 8. Difficult to have air movement with open windows with shutters partially closed. Might be able to split shutters into upper and lower portions.
 - 9. Would permit complete view of the interior windows when open, but would add visual obstructions at the walls.

10.No benefit to acoustics versus some benefit with fabric shades.

11.The subcommittee confirmed their decision to recommend shades, based on the primary need to shade sunglare, removable without significant damage to the historic building in the future if other alternatives become available, least damaging option to the visual presentation of the windows from the interior.

vi. Phil Sherman will return this discussion to the selectmen on 4/19.

d. Acoustic panels

- i. Acoustic panels will cover the west, south and east walls, and will be butt jointed. They are 5/8" thick and will sit behind the depth of the trim.
- ii. Fastened to the wall with "Z" clips. If removed in the future, holes can be patched.
- iii. Jim Perkins agreed that as a reversible treatment causing minimal damage to plaster wall surfaces, acoustic panels may be an acceptable treatment by preservation.
- iv. Proposed color is "eucalyptus" based on color chart. Dennis Mires still awaiting delivery of physical samples for review.
- v. A picture rail is proposed at the top of the panels, to permit hanging artwork without damaging the panels.

e. Sound and Video

- i. Dennis Mires will have further information at the next meeting.

f. Lighting

- i. Dennis Mires proposed "can" lights along the west, east and south walls. These require more damage to the historic ceiling, but result in a less obtrusive final product.

- ii. Jim Perkins will review the use of “can” lights versus a surface mount product such as light bars.
 - iii. Additional lighting will be required at the center of the room, and shadowing from ceiling fans will need to be considered when locating.
 - g. Furniture
 - i. Jim Perkins agrees that fixing balcony seating to the floor is acceptable, due to its safety function.
 - h. Attic/thermal
 - i. Jim Perkins indicated that spray foam insulation is not acceptable due to the potential for moisture damage, change in thermal characteristics of the attic/roof, and irreparable harm to historic materials and workmanship.
 - ii. Dennis Mires will return with a scheme that keeps the insulation at the floor of the attic, and encloses equipment where required. The seasonal use of the air handler will be considered. The potential to provide additional chilled water piping to the cabinet units will be reviewed.
 - i. Correction of gutter downspout connection restrictions will be added to the list.
 - j. Project packaging
 - i. Based on the sequencing need to install the acoustic wall panels after other construction is complete, Kim Hallquist agreed that acoustic panels are not a required initial item to use the hall for meetings.
 - ii. The sound system should be moved forward in an expeditious manner.

- iii. Other times will be packaged as a project for review by the BFC, and they the selectmen.

3. Action steps

- a. Phil Sherman and Dennis Mires will discuss status of architect's fees.
- b. Phil Sherman will return the shade discussion to the selectmen on 4/19.
- c. Dennis Mires will obtain acoustic panel samples.
- d. Dennis Mires will obtain better information on audio/video.
- e. Jim Perkins will review the use of "can" lights versus surface mount arrangements.
- f. Dennis Mires will provide a draft report prior to the next meeting.

4. Next meeting

Next subcommittee meeting will be held at 3 pm on 4/26/21, via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Sherman, Chair