

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Groton 2020 School Construction Program Status (2) 8/30/17

The Town is still awaiting the State Budget to be passed in anticipation of receiving funding approval for the school projects. Preparatory efforts or “setting the table” have been proceeding with priority still given to the consolidated middle school. The following describes the items and issues being addressed for the consolidated middle school:

- An Architect was selected to design the middle school. The 5 finalists were interviewed by the Selection Committee and after a thorough review of the proposals provided by the finalists and a project scope review, Silver-Petrucelli was selected. A Professional Services Agreement is being prepared and is expected to be signed within the next few weeks by the Director of Public Works.
- The Legal Notice for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Construction Manager at Risk (CM-R) was posted in The Day on August 20, and the following day on the Town and DAS websites. Responses are due on September 1st and will be delivered for review to the Selection Committee the following week. The Selection Committee is scheduled to meet during the week of September 11th to select 4 finalists and a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent to the finalists, followed by interviews, and selection.
- To enhance project communication, a Program Office is being established in the Public Works Department. The Town’s Program Manager, Arcadis and their Project Manager, will work from this office, which is expected to be the hub for the management of all three school projects.
- The Town is awaiting final determination by the State Attorney General that the Conservation Easement for the property to replace the Merritt property is satisfactory. After the Conservation Easement is filed in land records, the state will release any restriction for the use of the Merritt property for school construction.
- The RFQ/RFP for a Licensed Environmental Professional, for all three projects, is still in process and is expected to be advertised shortly.
- The Roles and Responsibilities for all of those involved in the three projects have been accepted.

Again, the importance of having all members of the design team (Architect, CM-R, Staff, BOE, and PSBC) in place and working cooperatively cannot be overstressed. The creation of a fully coordinated detailed plan for the middle school and executing that plan with little or no changes is crucial to the middle school being occupied by the start of the 2020-2021 school year and meeting the project budget.

Once the State budget is approved we will know how many projects are funded and, if all three, attention can be given to RFQs for Architects and CMs to convert the existing middle schools. A schedule can then be created for the conversions to ensure that work on the conversions meet the State’s two year start of construction requirement.