

# Arlington High School Building Committee

## Minutes

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**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Conducted via Remote Participation

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**Start time:** 6:02 PM

**End time:** 6:35

**Attendees:** (From roll call)

Committee Members (voting): Dr. Elizabeth Homan, Jim Feeney, Alex Magee, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Ryan Katofsky, Kate Loosian, Amy Speare, Judson Pierce, Jeff Thielman (Chair).

Non-voting members: Shannon Knuth

Design Team: Lori Cowles (HMFH), Arthur Duffy (HMFH), John LaMarre (Consigli), Chris Weber (Consigli), Jim Burrows (Skansa), Sy Nguyen (Skanska).

Committee members (voting) absent: Jay McNeill (Town Facilities Director), Francis Callahan (Community Member), John Cole (Community Member), Fran Gorski (Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations), Tobey Jackson (Community Member), Matthew Janger (High School Principal), Bill McCarthy (Assistant Principal, Arlington High School), Brett Lambert (Permanent Town Building Committee representative).

Nine of 17 voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

### **Key Themes and Important Updates:**

This meeting focused on several critical updates regarding the ongoing construction and finalization of the Arlington High School project, particularly concerning the athletic fields, landscaping, and building amenities.

#### **1. Turf Field and Crumb Rubber Environmental Testing**

- **Current Status:** The team is awaiting results from tests for the turf infill, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with results expected this week.
- **CAM 17 Testing.** The AHSBC is working with the Conservation Commission to address the CAM 17 test results. CAM 17 is a test for hazardous waste; the AHSBC has made this known to the Conservation Commission.
  - **Reasoning:** CAM 17 is a test performed in California for drinking water, which "takes the material and basically burns it... and anything left over is what shows

up on the test." The team argues that "the conditions that we're going to have in the turf field don't apply that we would not have that result that this test shows."

- **Zinc Failure:** The crumb rubber "passed for everything except for zinc" on the CAM 17 test.
- **Conservation Commission Engagement:** The team is "getting on the agendas for the conservation commission to begin that conversation with them."
- A "working session" is planned for Thursday (June 5th) to discuss test outcomes and "potential next steps."
- A follow-up meeting with the Conservation Commission is anticipated for June 26th.
- **Timeline Sensitivity:** The deadline to order the crumb rubber product is "pretty close to June 26th," ideally the "morning of the 27th" if approval is secured on the 26th. An "impasse" with the Conservation Commission could affect the completion date of the project.
- **Mitigation/Safety Valve:** An "observation port for the water that comes off of the field" has been added to allow for "testing of the water runoff" to ensure nothing harmful is leaching.
- **Precedent:** The team hopes to "employ a similar mechanism as we did with 6-PPD Quinone," which is an agreement with the commission to test actual runoff from the field for zinc leaching. The Town would apply the runoff to approved EPA standards.

## 2. Construction Progress Updates (Visuals Shared)

- Amphitheater: "Just about wrapped up," with turf installed and string lights. Set to open by the "end of this week" and available for graduation.
- Rain Garden: "Significant progress" in recent days with plantings in the top and middle tiers, and the installation of "structural fiber reinforced."
- Main Turnaround: The drive lane and main entrance area show progress, with an existing engineered barrier supplemented by an additional layer and a clay layer on top.
- Temporary Walkways: Paved temporary walkways are in place along the building and to Pierce Field for graduation and will remain for the duration of the project.
- Softball Field: New Musco pole bases installed, with remaining light poles to be installed the "week of June 16th." Dugouts have fence posts and curb nailer/drainage systems installed.
- Baseball Field: Subgrade is "pretty much complete." The perimeter curb nailer and drainage system are in place. The next layers of grade will be brought up to flush with the curb nailer, followed by carpet turf installation.
- Bike Path: Fully paved, including the ramp to the MBTA bike path and the adjacent property to Mill Street (needs topcoat). Retaining wall, tall ball netting poles, and shorter bike path fence poles are visible.
- Toilet Building: Excavation for the water line is complete. Interior finishes are being applied, with fixtures installed.
- Public Access: The toilet building and bike path "will not be open to the public until after Labor Day."

### 3. Committee Reports

- Communications (Amy Spear): Meeting tomorrow (June 4th) to discuss "completion project celebrations," including potential involvement of state officials.
  - Considerations include timing (before/after school starts, open house) and typical event coordination with MSBA and state officials (likely a weekend event).
- Finance (Jim Feeny): Meeting regularly, "each month scheduled to meet next month to approve change orders."
- Interiors (Liz Holman): Plaque Language: Liz sent an email on May 22nd seeking feedback on "language for a plaque for the Discourse Lab" but received no responses. She requested prompt replies from committee members.
- Temp Phasing Meeting: A meeting tomorrow to sort through "different phases of parking and entry and accessible entry... over the summer" due to shifting layouts for building occupants and ACE.
- No updates on security.
- Memorials (Bill McCarthy): No report as Bill is on leave. (Note: Discussion about whether a member on leave counts towards quorum – confirmed that they do if they are a seated member).
- Sustainability (Ryan Katski): "Nothing new to report."

### 4. Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025, was made by Kate Loosian and seconded by Alex Magee. Roll Call Vote (Approved):

- Jeff Thielman: Yes
- Dr. Holman: Yes
- Jim Feeney: Yes
- Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe: Yes
- Ryan Katofsky: Yes
- Kate Loosian: Abstained
- Alex Magee: Yes
- Judson Pierce: Yes
- Amy Speare: Yes

### 5. Motion to Adjourn (Approved):

Motion to adjourn was made by Kirsi Allison-Ampe and seconded by Kate Loosian.

Roll Call Vote (approved)

- Jeff Thielman: Yes
- Dr. Holman: Yes
- Jim Feeney: Yes
- Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe: Yes
- Ryan Katofsky: Yes
- Kate Loosian: Abstained

- Alex Magee: Yes
- Judson Pierce: Yes
- Amy Speare: Yes

## **6. Next meeting**

Ms. Kasey will place a hold for a meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, and determine if there will be a quorum. The meeting may not be necessary. Mr. Thielman will be in touch with Ms. Kasey as discussions with the Conservation Commission proceed.

A meeting will likely be needed on Tuesday, August 5. Ms. Kasey will be in touch with the committee and its Chair/Co-Chairs to coordinate.