

## Mission Statement for Fort River School Building Committee

The Fort River School Building Committee is charged by the Amherst School Committee to oversee the Fort River Site and Building Feasibility Study, as authorized by Amherst Town Meeting in March 2017. The mission of the School Building Committee is to ensure a feasibility study process that will produce educationally sound, environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible options for the Fort River Elementary School site. Additionally, the School Building Committee is charged with proactively engaging the community throughout the study for the purpose of informing and soliciting input. The Committee has final authority on all project decisions and will make recommendations to the School Committee on all financial, contractual, and scheduling matters.

This School Building Committee will limit their consideration of options to a K-6 elementary school on the Fort River Elementary School site, and will sunset upon completion of its deliverables and presentation of its results.

This feasibility study will include a full site, structural, and environmental analysis, and will be led by an architect, Owner's Project Manager and a team of building and environmental experts.

Specifically, the School Building Committee will be tasked with: hiring an Owner Project Manager, who will oversee technical aspects of the project and make related recommendations to the School Building Committee; establishing a community liaison and a communications plan to actively and regularly inform the community and town officials about the project's progress and solicit input; hiring an architect who has strong experience with school projects and is committed to "green"/ Zero Energy buildings; hiring other consultants to work in concert with the architect, including landscape designers, structural engineers, school safety experts, civil engineers, green design/ energy consultants, environmental consultants, and geotechnical engineers; oversee the above-named team's site and building analysis to ensure a thorough and robust exploration of all possible site options that meet the community's goals; soliciting input from educational planners and district educators around educational programming; soliciting initial schematic drawings of multiple options for site and building; contracting an independent cost estimator to evaluate costs of each possible option presented by the architect; and presenting a final report to the Amherst School Committee and Town Meeting that encompasses work done to date and viable site options.