

Dear Citizen:

Thank you very much for attending the hearing last night, and thank you for your comments and input regarding the selected site.

Since the committee was formed and started meeting in March of 2004, the majority of our meeting time has been dedicated to site selection. As reported last night, the committee members spent numerous hours reviewing the maps for 95 potential sites in the Town of East Haddam. Being a resident of East Haddam, you know that the land in town is littered with slopes, rock, streams, ponds, and wetlands. Of the 95 sites identified, over 60 were not viable due to wetlands, slope, or ledge. After the elimination of these sites, we were left with approximately 30 sites for further consideration. Upon further review, and the establishment of the criteria, we were able to identify 4 viable sites for the school.

The Bogel Road site identified did meet the criteria for size, but after a more in-depth review, we found that the roads leading to the site were unpaved, that the distance from the existing schools was not conducive to busing and that the vernal pools and wetlands located on the site would provide a fragmented layout for fields, roads, parking and structure. Although the Bogel road site met some of our established criteria, it did not meet all of them. For this reason, the Bogel Road site was not selected.

You are correct that road improvements may be required for North Moodus Road and Sillimanville Road site, but the differences between the Bogel Road Site, and the Sillimanville Road site are these:

- If the entrance to the school were off of Sillimanville Road, the major changes to roads would be limited, while minor repairs may be required.
- The Bogel road would include the paving of an entire road to access the site, not just improvements.
- Regarding the access through parcel "E", this road could be constructed within the property, and therefore receive partial reimbursement from the state.

I can assure you that this site was not selected because it was a "pre-selected" site. The committee looked at several sites, and found that the North Moodus Site / Sillimanville site was the best potential site for the school project.

As for the future ramifications of having the school located at the North Moodus Site, those also were considered. The current population density of the town is located in the eastern portion of town. Zoning laws are in place that will limit development of the western portion of town, especially in the Eight Mile River Water Shed. Also, the operational and administration costs, need to be considered in having a school located some distance from the current schools, and population center. As indicated last night by Dr. Durham, the amount of buses would have to be doubled, if current bus routes could not be maintained.

As a member of the community, I was surprised to find such a limited amount of viable sites within the town, but given the information provided and the research done, I feel that the committee has selected the best potential site for the proposed 4 – 8 school.

I hope that this response has further answered your concerns and questions. I also hope that you will change your opinion of the site, and the project, and support the project at the upcoming Referendum.

If you have any additional comments, or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
East Haddam School Building Committee
Todd Moss – Chairperson