New Library Study Committee
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 3
August 24, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: W Barney, J Bielot, M Callahan, E Dillon, J Leatherbee, R Parady
Alternates Present: M Mazur, C McCarthy
Also present: A Guinness, J Leach, D Snow, K Stofko, J Whitty

Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the New Library Study Committee meeting to order at 7:01 PM and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of August 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes – Accepted as presented.

Old Business –

A. Review of possible new library sites – Discussion occurred regarding a site for consideration located in the northwest corner of the MOC lot. Chairman Barney looked at the property and discussed it with the town's Land Use Administrator. The home directly north of the MOC property is on the market for $389,900. This would extend the MOC property to the north and add 0.6 acres. Another possible site is on the senior center property. Bill will discuss them with Selectman Haines and the Land Use Administrator.

   Chairman Barney contacted the East Haddam News and learned that the cost for an 8.5" x 11" insert would be approx. $550. A ½ page add would cost $329. They only need 1 week lead time for a ½ page advertisement. These would be for a survey of the town. Discussion of the survey included a review of potential questions and discussion of how to distribute the survey; via EH News, a web-based survey, generation of a QR code and related topics. Discussion also occurred regarding educating the populace of the town regarding the reasons why the current library sites are unsuitable for a 21st century library.

   Discussion occurred regarding the state's spreadsheet which Michael has been working on to complete and is used to calculate the minimum square footage for a new building along with the size of the property. It considers building mechanicals, space for outdoor programming, parking etc. It currently estimates a minimum 16,000sq ft building. Discussions occurred regarding how accurate these projections might be.

   8,815 – 2030 UCONN population estimate.
   8,165 – 2040 UCONN population estimate

   Chairman Barney previously contacted Dee Hasuly, a local realtor, to provide the committee with a Current Market Analysis for both to the current properties. She indicated to him that she would get them to him in the next week or so.

B. Other – Maureen Sullivan, the former ALA President, will attend the next committee meeting on 9/14.

New Business –

A. Develop Survey Questions - Chairman Barney and C McCarthy distributed copies of potential survey questions that they produced. Discussion occurred. Most were common to both. One or two minor changes were discussed. Discussion regarding how to distribute the survey, i.e. online only, or online, via paper at the libraries and select locations around town and as either in the EH News or as an insert in EH News so that all the public would need to do is to fold it and apply a stamp. It was determined that although online only make it much easier to tabulate the responses, paper copies were absolutely required to get the largest possible participation.

B. Other – Correspondence was received, read, and discussed by the members.

Audience of Citizens – The public members that attended the meeting took part in the various parts of the discussion regarding the current and potential future buildings and locations. Members of the public expressed the need to include a specific professionally designed space for the historical records currently housed at the Rathbun. Chairman Barney also reiterated that the committee had a desire to honor the Rathbun's and Judge Purple by having floors/spaces/wings dedicated to them in any new library.

The YouTube recording of the meeting is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLp0kF-znJo.

Adjournment -
Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bielot, Secretary