New Library Study Committee
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 3
July 27, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: W Barney, J Bielot, M Callahan, E Dillon, J Leatherbee, M Lehmacher
Alternates Present:
Also present: M Gilroy, J Whitty, J Leach, P Griswold

Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the New Library Study Committee meeting to order at 7:02 PM and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of July 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes – Acceptance of the minutes was held until the next meeting as they have not been distributed. C McCarthy was to provide the minutes and she is not present.

Old Business –

A. Discussion of potential sites – Chairman Barney briefly discussed another potential privately owned site with the town's Land Use Administrator that was identified by E Dillon. The Land Use Administrator was going to research it and get back in touch with Chairman Barney. As of this meeting, he has not done so.

   Chairman Barney is going to check to find out if the town has anyone that can provide an appraisal of the existing library properties.

   Chairman Barney reiterated the Committee's conclusion that the existing buildings cannot be refitted to be capable of being 21st century libraries due to the fact that to bring them up to ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) would cost over $1M dollars and by itself that doesn't solve the lack of space and parking. The lots that the buildings are located on are fairly small and are constrained by either wetlands (EHFPL) or ledge (Rathbun). Adjacent properties are not presently known to be for sale.

   The Committee looked at the basement of the Municipal Office Complex as a possible location and found the space would not be suitable due to insufficient contiguous space, environmentally, and inability to support future growth.

   The Chairman would like to rank the sites that we are considering at the next meeting. The privately owned sites that we've identified do not really meet the town's objective of centrally locating the library. Discussion regarding the town owned sites then took place.

New Business -

A. Discussion of what is needed in a 21st century library – Discussion took place over broadly defined requirements for a new centrally located building, including the need to quantify the amount of space required for the various areas of the library; including such things as maker space, historic space, children's space, teen space, young adult space, adult space, staff space, meeting room

space, and storage space. At the next meeting we will continue to work on how much space the building should be.

Starting at the next meeting the committee would like to have one or more guests come in to discuss what the local school system would like to see in a new library and to discuss requirements for a 21st century library with past ALA President Maureen Sullivan who had previously offered to offer assistance. Chairman Barney will reach out to the Superintendent of Schools. Library Directory M Gilroy will reach out to Maureen Sullivan.

B. Other -

Audience of Citizens – The public members that attended the meeting took part in the various parts of the discussions regarding the current and possible future buildings.

The YouTube recording of the meeting is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yaoRFc1fF8.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Bielot, Secretary