New Library Study Committee
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 3
June 8, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: W Barney, J Bielot, M Callahan, E Dillon, J Leatherbee, M Lehmacher, R Parady
Alternates Present: C McCarthy, M Mazur
Also present: M Gilroy, J Whitty, J Leach, P Griswold, D Angersola

Call to Order – Chairman Barney called the New Library Study Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Because Mr. Angersola had another meeting to attend, the Tour of the Lower Level of the MOC was done at this time, out of the order of the agenda, so that he could attend his next meeting.

Review of June 8, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes – The minutes were accepted as presented.

Old Business –

A. Status of Town Properties for a new Library Building – Chairman Barney was unable to meet with Land Use Administrator J Ventres. He indicated that he would redouble his efforts to get together with Mr. Ventres.

B. Review Fact Sheets regarding Existing Libraries – J Bielot reported on the Appraised values of the existing library properties based on the property card information available (2020) via the link on the Town Assessor's website. Discussion took place regarding the value of the properties, amount of current building space, property size, and projections regarding the needed space.

	Appraised Value	**Assessed Value**	**Bldg Space (gross)**	**Property**
EHFPL	$510,600	$357,420	3,400 sq ft	1.03 acres
Rathbun	$892,140	$624,500	7,069 sq ft	1.27 acres

The state produced Library Space Planning Guide (revised 2021) specifies a minimum of 1.6sq ft per capita for towns with population under 10,000. With a town population of 9,000 * 1.6 = 14,400 sq feet minimum.

For the town or any commercial use, the buildings would need to be updated to be ADA compliant, which would significantly affect the value of the properties. According to G Fellner, we should assume that the costs indicated in the study that was done 4-5 years ago would increase by 25-30%.

C. Other

New Business -

A. Tour Lower Level of MOC – D Angersola let the group through all of the lower level (basement) spaces of the MOC. The space remains mostly unchanged from when the building was a school. HVAC ductwork and equipment hangs from the ceilings in multiple spaces. A separate HVAC system

would need to be installed as the existing system does not cover the lower level. Several of the spaces are used for storage by various town departments as there is no storage on the main floor.

Discussion took place regarding the lower level; it is deficiencies and the significant amount of work and cost incurred that would need to be done to knock down walls to open up the space so that it's as close as possible to a single contiguous space since many walls appear to be load bearing. Multiple members indicated that the aesthetics of the space matter, and that having significant natural light is important. Concerns were raised that the library would need additional staffing if the space is not contiguous in order to cover all of the spaces. Concerns were raised over the lack of nearby outdoor space for outdoor programming. Several members brought up the need to prioritize possible locations and if possible present multiple options as part of the board's final recommendations.

B. Report on Maureen Sullivan, former ALA President's Presentation – Multiple members attended the presentation. Mrs. Sullivan indicated that public libraries are now built for people to get information, not specifically just as a space for books. They provide inviting community spaces for everyone; for isolated learning, for co-operative spaces, and for tutoring space thus providing an individualized touch. There is a need for outside space for programming, maker spaces with technology such as 3D printers, Virtual Reality, etc. with a high degree of space flexibility so that space can be reconfigured without reconstruction.

C. Members tasks for Future Meeting – Chairman Barney to reach out to the Land Use Administrator and to Craig Mansfield to find out if when the MOC was constructed if the MOC committee had any plans for the use of the lower-level space that were not done due to financial or other reasons.

D. Other - C McCarthy recommended the creation of a couple of surveys to start gathering data from library patrons as to why they were at the library, what do you wish the library had available and related topics.

Audience of Citizens – The public members that attended the meeting and were present for the tour of the lower level thanked the committee for allowing them to take part.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Bielot, Secretary