

Library Building Committee Meeting – November 17, 2014 - DRAFT

Present: John Freidin, Susan Shashok, Maria Graham, Dennis O'Brien, Peter DeGraff, Christina Johnston, Kathleen Ramsay, Kevin Unrath.

Meeting called to order at 5:02.

5:05 Minutes of the last meeting: Accepted unanimously with revision swapping RFQ and RFP.

5:10 Planning Proposal: Mr. Freidin and Ms. Graham presented a proposal for consulting services on library strategic planning solicited from Barbara Doyle-Wilch and pending approval from the board of trustees later in the week. Ms. Wilch will, upon approval, lead the library board in the creation of a strategic plan over the next several months. Ms. Wilch will work with the committee and the public during this process, but will primarily be focused on facilitating the creation of a plan authored by the library director and board with input from library staff. The "centers of excellence" that will be an outcome of the plan can then be used by the building committee

Ms. Shashok proposed that the building committee skip its December meeting to let the planning process move forward. Mr. Freidin and the committee agreed that, other than the educational component of reading articles (to be emailed by Mr. Unrath), it would likely not be necessary to meet in December, pending any new developments.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the timeline regarding a bond issue, fundraising and the tax atmosphere, suggesting that looking at the feasibility of raising private funds first is necessary before moving forward with the bond process, so pushing back the bond vote to a future date could be needed. Mr. DeGraff and Ms. Shashok both said that a preliminary building program was necessary first before looking closely at funding.

Ms. Ramsay mentioned that the fundraising committee for the recent town offices and rec facility project consulted with the Vermont Community Foundation on possible areas of fundraising, and suggested we consider approaching them for preliminary assistance. Ms. Shashok suggested that we add fundraising to the list of projects that Ms. Wilch consults with us on, and that fundraising planning was ultimately something that would come from the library trustees. Mr. Freidin inquired as to when a proposal to the Selectboard was needed for a capital request to be approved for conducting a fundraising feasibility study, and Ms. Ramsay indicated January was the last possible time to put in such a request.

Mr. Unrath recommended that the strategic plan and consequent preliminary space needs be established first, and then fundraising be considered more in-depth. Ms. Johnston suggested that visualizing what the committee hopes to build helps get people excited and keep focus on the project, but a detailed plan was unnecessary.

6:10: New Business – None.

6:12 Next meeting: Mr. Freidin will get back to the committee as to whether the December meeting will go forward or be postponed pending work on the strategic plan. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin Unrath