

MINUTES
Randall Library Building Committee
August 29, 2012

Members present at the Town Building were Steve Dungan, Steve Jelinek, Tim Reed, Jim Salvie and Barbie Wolfenden. Tom Lam and Peter McManus were absent.

Also present was Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Tim convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Planning for the Joint Boards Meeting

Jim, speaking as a selectman, said the purpose of the joint boards meeting is to prioritize the projects. It is the first step in airing everything. Hopefully, people will reach consensus.

Some members were confused about the expectations for the project committee presentations; Charlie and Bill will be asked to define what the groups will do at the meeting.

The Special Town Meeting is to approve the design funds (next stage) of each project. A NO vote doesn't mean Never; it just means Not Now.

The remainder of the meeting was a brainstorming session on what to present to the joint boards and town meeting.

The presentations will cover:

1. Why we need to do it.
2. Consequences of not doing it.
3. Vision for the future.

Steve J said there is not enough time to have each project come before the Capital Planning Committee. Members are counting on the upcoming public forums to learn about them.

Whether it passes depends on who shows up. People are geared to public safety, so the Library needs to get the parents to come out. They also need to enlist a well-known and respected resident to support the project with the more fiscally conservative group in town.

Jim is searching for the history of the addition. He will check the Town Clerk's copies of the Town Reports.

State funding would require more meeting rooms, more shelving, and much larger square footage. They also require one parking space for every 400 square feet.

Feedback from residents is that people have to go to other towns, for example, for handicapped access. There have been comments that the library is not meeting their needs.

Purpose of the library: to offer many services, e.g., for young adults, for tutoring, a quiet place for adults, for Minuteman Library Network access. It is a place for people to congregate and for kids after school. Consider constituencies: children, elderly, middle adults.

What are the top bullets for the presentation? What's really wrong with the building? The existing addition is at the end of its life span. Repairs will not last. The solution is to tear down the 1975 addition and rebuild.

Tim presented comparative data he collected from neighboring towns: Stow spends the least amount and has less staff than others.

Why does Stow need a library if neighboring towns have better ones?

Agreement that:

Need a committee to do fundraising

Need to have talented people to do it

Example: Get 100 families to pledge \$1,000 a year for five years. Equals \$500.0k.

Ask Stew and Phil how other towns raised funds, especially foundation money.

Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

The next meeting will be September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Warren Room – to prepare for the Joint Boards meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., Steve D moved to adjourn, Barbie seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin

Approved November 19, 2012