

Barrington Public Library
Special Meeting with Barrington Board of Selectmen
May 19th, 2016
Adopted Meeting Minutes

Present: Ron St Jean, Althea Sheaff, Sam Boduch, Peter Royce, Amy Inglis Library Director, Leigh Elliott, Robert Drew, Traci Bisson via Skype, Victoria Sellers

Present from Board of Selectmen: Susan Gaudiello, Casey O'Brien, Andrew Knapp, Dan Ayer
Town Administrator John Scruton. Absent: Dawn Hatch

Local Barrington citizens:

Ken Grant, Pat Gingrich, Linda Briggs, Jim Guthrie

The Board of Selectmen and Library Board of Trustees introduced themselves and the meeting began at 6:02pm.

Ron illustrates two of the plans that have been drafted for a future library facility. One option with the library being on the lower part of the property made available by the old town hall being demolished. The lower lot allows for a two level building. The other option is a building of the same square footage but as a one level structure, that would be in the same location as the lot that was previously designated for the town hall. This location would be closer to the Recreation department building and also closer to the Early Childhood Learning Center which uses the library daily. This is where the Library Board of Trustees would like to use as a future site for a new library facility. The Library Board of Trustees asks the Board of Selectmen if they would support the new library facility going in this location, leaving the lower level site available for a future town hall? The Library Foundation is forming and will be actively fundraising soon to help build a new library, and a decision needs to be made as to where the building can be placed.

Discussion is had amongst the BOS and Trustees, Selectmen Dan Ayer and Casey O'Brien state they support the library going in the upper section. Town Administrator John Scruton states a decision cannot be made tonight, they will need to discuss this further and vote at a later date. The consensus is that the BOS support the new library facility going in the upper section. This site allows both a closer proximity to the Recreation department, and ECLC as well as allowing a wider one level building

Ron states that the Library Foundation is at an impasse until a decision has been made.

A new town hall building was voted down during the recent local election. Space issues are an immediate issue at the town hall as well as the Recreation department. Amy suggests the idea of sponsoring several listening sessions to get feedback from the citizens of Barrington as to

what they are looking for. As well as to enlist support if the citizens would like a new library to be built.

Amy expresses willingness of the library to sponsor these listening sessions. It is expressed that reaching out to local groups such as the PTA, would be a good starting point for publicizing the sessions.

Public Comments:

Barrington resident Ken Grant raised questions pertaining to procedures to track current library use and number of citizens using the library.

Pat Gingrich stated that she has found the library to be a wonderful resource and a community hub to meeting people and attain new skills.

Linda Briggs mentioned staying up to date on current library happenings through the library e-newsletter.

The meeting draws to a close with next steps being reaching out to the public and scheduling listening sessions to determine if the public would like a new library facility and to open up discussion with the citizens of Barrington.

The meeting ended at 7:20pm

Special thanks to the Friends of the Barrington Library for providing refreshments.

Minutes recorded by Leigh Elliott