

LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE
Meeting of March 24, 2015

A meeting of Library Building Committee was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at Southworth Library. Ms. McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:33.

Board Members

Lynne Antunes, Secretary ex officio	Shawn McDonald
Stanley Bielusiak	Suzanne McDonald, Chair
Bruce Brooks	Mike Proulx
David Cressman, ex officio	Troy Tufano
Mary Ellen DeFrias, Vice-Chair	Deborah Wender, ex officio

Mr. Tufano was not present.

Ms. McDonald accepted the position of Chair and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Proulx to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Brooks. The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the February 25 meeting. Mr. and Ms. McDonald abstained.

Old Business

Mr. McDonald asked about site selection and Ms. Antunes explained that the Committee narrowed the choices down to 2 sites at the February meeting, the Cross Road town-owned property and the undeveloped parcel behind Home Depot and BJ's. The Committee needs to present 2 sites for evaluation to meet the MBLC requirements.

Mr. Proulx offered the idea of Dartmouth having a single, centrally located library instead of having 2 library buildings was presented, as a single, larger library would be more cost effective. Some discussion followed and it was pointed out that town residents would be unlikely to support the closing of both libraries for a single building. The biggest obstacles to switching to a single library for the town are the physical size of Dartmouth, the lack of a central location, and the obstacle that Route 6 presents to residents when travelling between the north and south portions of Dartmouth. The Committee will move forward with the branch project.

There was also some discussion of a joint project with another community agency, such as the COA. This could make the project more attractive to residents, however no other town agency has expressed interest. Mr. Cressman pointed out that the site next to Potter School offers the benefit of providing library service for the school and thus freeing up the current library space in the school building for other purposes.

There was some discussion of the need to start now to engage the community and gain support for a new library. Everyone on the Committee has heard someone state that “No one uses libraries anymore.” They haven’t visited their public library and are unaware of the activity going on there. Mr. McDonald suggested that it would be a good idea to give Town Meeting a very brief update on the progress of this building project.

Mr. McDonald asked what needed to be done at this point. Ms. Antunes stated that the Committee needed to make a decision on the size of the meeting room, and how to accommodate a larger room if that is the Committee’s decision. The Library Building Program calls for a room with seating for 50 people, and Ms. Antunes and others believe that should be increase to 100. Mr. McDonald made a motion that the Committee vote to increase the size of building to allow for a larger meeting room. Mr. Proulx seconded and all voted in favor, none opposed.

The next step would be to submit the Building Program to the Library Trustees for their approval, which is necessary before the Program can be submitted to the MBLC. Mr. McDonald made a motion that the Committee submit the amended Building Program to the Trustees, and Mr. Proulx seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Proulx seconded, and all voted in favor, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the Library Trustees have received and approved or disapproved the Library Building Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Antunes