

Abbott Library Board of Trustees Minutes September 20, 2011

Members present: Terri Jillson White, Chair; Peter Urbach, Asst. Chair; Tracy Nangeroni, Treasurer; James Gottling, Sec.; Jean Molloy, John Wilson, John Walden, Director; Anne Nilsen, Alternate; Mary Epreman, Alternate; Tom Mickle, Alternate

Members absent: Barbara Hollander

Others: Dick Katz, President of Friends of the Abbott Library; Sue Gottling, Selectman; Peter Spanos, Eagle Times; Merry Armentrout, InterTown Record

I. Chair's Opening Remarks: At 6:35 PM, Terri W called the meeting to order. Terri said that Tom M would be sitting in for Barbara H, who is attending the LTA New Library Trustee Orientation in Newport this evening.

II. Approval of August 16, 2011 Minutes: Peter U suggested changing "representative to the InterTown Record" to "representative to the Press" on page 2. Peter also said that on page 3 "approved of the planned appearance" should read "informally indicated he liked the plan." Anne N noted that "1/19/2011" on page 1 should be "7/19/2011," "Terry N" on page 2 should be "Tracy N," and "Andover" on page 5 should be "Salisbury." Terri W indicated that "being a very rainy" should be ""being very rainy" in the first bullet under **IV. Director's Report** and that Ms. Flater's first name should be spelled "Melinda" rather than "Malinda." J Wilson, with Tracy N's 2nd, moved that the minutes of August 16, 2011 be approved as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Report from the Friends: Dick Katz not present at this time – See below

IV. Director's Report: John Walden called for questions about his written report. Peter U commented that the report indicated that the ASK program had to turn children away in the 4-5 grade group – it would be good to document that situation with the result getting to a newspaper article or other outlet. Walden, asked by Terri W, said there was a waiting list for that group.

Walden spoke about the open house, planned for Nov. 5 from 1 to 4 P.M. His written report indicates the following activities: Technology Demos, Facility Tour, Card Sign-up, ASK Program, New Library Q & A, Friends Sign-up, Snacks (Lions lunch wagon with hot dogs and beverages,) Tell us Your Story, and Abbott Foundation. Walden will ask the Friends to provide a budget for door prizes and for food provided by Lions. Trustees are urged to attend and provide informal contact with library visitors.

Walden spoke about a donation of a William Shakespeare bust that Mr. and Mrs. Knapp, seasonal residents on Garnet Hill, want to make to the library for placement in the garden or some other appropriate area. Jim G moved, with Tom M 2nd, to accept this donation, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commenting about the Tracy Library's recent flooding problem, Walden said that our library's basement remained completely dry during the hurricane. He added that the library has a sump pump with battery backup in case of loss of electrical power. The backup system includes an alarm if the battery backup is not fully operational. John was not sure how long the battery could support the sump pump's operation.

In Walden's written report about summer library usage, circulation increased between 2007 and 2011 from 13,342 to 19,454 and visits increased from 6,537 to 8,522 over that period.

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Unique cards used for checkouts, recorded since 2008, have increased from 1,169 to 1,245 in 2011. Peter U said that he thought this statistic is very useful. In response, Walden said that a patron who contacted him had heard that there were only about 300 library users in town. Walden was able to tell the patron that there are 3,200 cardholders, at least 1,245 who had actively used their cards this summer.

V. Treasurer's Report: Tracy N said that the budget looks fine. The 1- to 9-month Advantage CD with a balance of \$182,364.61 was rolled over completely, not withholding any funds for expenses. It's only paying 0.6%. Terri W commented that she, Tracy N, and Dir. Walden had been authorized last month to withhold some cash from the transfer, but they felt that none was needed immediately. If some cash is needed before the end of the year, a one-time withdrawal is allowed from the CD without penalty.

Peter U, asking about the Capital Campaign Balance page, wanted to know if we get to add \$25k in December, because of the March 2011 town vote authorizing \$25k in the town budget for the Capital Campaign. Tracy N agreed that was correct. Terri W added that Walden had reminded her that interest from the restricted funds should be asked for in December. This interest transfer is requested every couple of years. It was not asked for last year, so that request should be made this year in December.

Peter U asked about the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, (P&LA) January through December 11, where the column labeled Jan – Dec 11 items are actually for Jan through the date the report was written (Tracy N indicated the date was 9/19.) These numbers are being compared with the budget amounts for the full year. Tom M noted that the first column figures in the P&LA January through August 2011 are the same as for first column figures in the P&LA January through December 2011. Tracy N said that comparing the first column of the P&LA January through August 2011 with the middle column (Budget) shows where we are over or under the budget.

VI. Chair's Report: Terri W reminded all that a meeting is scheduled for September 27 at 8:30 AM at the Safety Services Building for the purpose of reviewing the draft of our budget.

Terri W presented her draft (See attachment) of a letter to State Library Director Michael York opposing reduced funding of the Interlibrary Loan program. The Trustees authorized Terri to draft this letter on their behalf at the August 16 meeting. Anne Nilsen reminded Terri that all Trustees are to sign this letter, and a final copy with space for Trustees' signatures is available and can be signed after this meeting.

Terri deferred commenting on the remainder of her report until an appropriate time in the New Library discussion. Noting arrival of Dick Katz, President of Friends of The Abbott Library, Terri called upon Dick to provide his Friends report.

III. Report from the Friends: Dick Katz commented briefly about the recent well-attended Friends program on building stonewalls.

Dick then announced that the Friends, at a special meeting held two weeks ago, had voted unanimously to pledge \$100k of accumulated funds to provide furnishings for the new Abbott Library at Sunapee Center, should it be approved at the March 2012 town vote! This announcement was greeted with considerable applause. Jim G, to clarify a point, asked if the

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\$2.7M financial plan include the cost of furnishings. Assured by Terri that the financial plan includes furnishings, the Friends donation reduces the amount to be raised by \$100k. Terri asked Dick to give the Friends our heartfelt thanks.

Dick followed this announcement with another. The *Taste of Sunapee* cookbook, containing 540 recipes from over 200 people, went to press today. It will go on sale just before Thanksgiving and be available in 20 shops throughout the area. Dick gave credit to Tom Mickle's wife Caroline for putting this book together.

VII. New Library Discussion:

A. Purchase and Sale Update – Peter U

I. Site Drawings:

The site drawings submitted by the Bank to the Water & Sewer Dept. were not entirely accurate. Charlie Hirshberg, Engineer on the project, and the Water & Sewer Dept. will have to correct the drawings. These changes may require a minor amendment to the P & S Agreement. At a meeting between Hirshberg, the Water & Sewer Dept., and the Bank President held several days ago, everyone seemed to agree with changes that need to be made, so this issue should not be a problem.

II. Zoning Change:

The P & S agreement called for a change in the zoning from residential/commercial to municipal. However, the zoning description of the site's location already permits municipal use, so no zoning change is required. So, there is no reason for the library to go before the planning board until after the March election.

III. Bank Approval of Site Design:

The P & S agreement calls for approval by the Bank of the library design. Although informal agreement has been given, Peter will draft a letter with drawings to obtain formal approval from Sherwood Moody.

IV. Title Search:

Peter said that we should do a title search. He asked the town attorney to recommend a company for this work. Peter has obtained an estimate of \$250 from the recommended company to do the search, so he asked for a motion to approve going ahead with the search. John Wilson, with Tracy N 2nd, moved that the title search using this company be approved. Before voting, Jim G asked if the search should be delayed until after the March 2012 vote. Peter said that with an affirmative town vote, we would need to execute the P & S agreement without delay. Doing the search at that time would delay the process by 60 to 90 days, so it is better to risk the \$250 now than to have a delay in March. The motion approving the title search then passed unanimously.

V. Sunapee Center Sign:

Peter reminded all that a sign marking the proposed new library site has been discussed. There were comments for and against placing this sign before the March election. The consensus was that the sign would help with the vote, so should be placed before the election. John W agreed to do preliminary work on planning the sign and get back with his results at our 9/27 meeting. Informal agreement has been

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given by the Bank to place the sign on the site before the P & S takes place, but we should probably get formal agreement from the Bank about the sign. Also, approval from the Zoning Board will probably be needed. Peter will tend to that.

B. Survey Results:

Approve Plan	Approve	Approve Somewhat	Disapprove Somewhat	Disapprove
Voter	163	33	8	61
Combined %	74%		26%	
Non Voters	32	6	6	10
Combined %	70%		30%	

Funding	Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
Voter	156	28	15	63
Combined %	70%		30%	
Non Voter	29	4	5	12
Combined %	66%		34%	

Peter presented the data shown above about the survey results as of 9/3. Returns are coming in now at the rate of 1 or 2 a day, sometimes none. Returns since 9/3 will not change the percentages much and are consistent with those already in.

C. Town Warrant Article Draft:

Donna Nashawaty referred Peter to Town Lawyer Jay Whitehead and the State person who reviews town warrant articles, in order to evaluate his warrant article drafts. The first warrant draft with one article requests voter approval of the site, its financing plan, and authorization of the loan. The second draft has two articles. The first of these requests authorization of the loan. The second requests voter approval of the site and its financing plan. Peter explained that a warrant article asking for approval of a loan or bond requires 60% voter approval to pass, while an article for something such as approval of a library project requires only 50% approval. Because of this difference, Peter asked for Trustee approval to submit only a draft using the 2 warrant article approach for further evaluation by the town lawyer and the state expert. During the discussion, Peter read the draft of both articles in the 2-article approach...

yy. Are you in favor of authorizing the issuance of not more than \$ 975,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectboard to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon to partially fund the design, construction and furnishing of a new town library as set forth in article xx. This article is contingent upon the passage of article xx.

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xx. Are you in favor of raising and appropriating \$1,725,000, to partially fund the design, construction and furnishing of a new town library and for the purchase of 2 ½ acres of land for the new library at Sargent Road and Route 11 (Map 25 Lot zz) from the following funding sources: \$275,000 from capital campaign funds previously donated for the building of a new library, currently held by the Abbott Library Trustees; \$125,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund established in 1999 for this purpose and miscellaneous capital campaign sources; \$1,325,000 from private donations to be solicited by the Abbott Library Foundation in a capital campaign. (Note: The total cost of the Library Project for design, construction, furnishing and land purchase will be \$2,700,000 funded by the loan of article yy and the sources of funding enumerated in this article xx.)

This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the associated work is completed or December 31, 2017, whichever occurs first. (Note: Fifty percent vote required.)

John Wilson wanted to know why the xx Article does not come before article yy. Peter said that the state requires any funding article to appear on the ballot before its related article. Peter commented that the above draft is the third modification. The state person said that this draft needs some fine-tuning, but it looks fine; the town lawyer said that it doesn't work at all. John Wilson moved, with Jean Molloy's 2nd, that Peter proceed with the 2-article approach, separating the funding approval from the site, building, and financial plan approval. Tracy N asked if the funding article could mention its tax-rate effect. Peter said that it could not. The tax rate effect could be in the town report describing the warrant articles. Peter said that we should highlight this issue in our mailings. Terri W called the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Q and A Information Mailing: Terri W, referring to the attached draft of the Question and Answer document to be mailed late this month to Sunapee voters, called for comments about the draft.

- Jim G said that he had returned the draft to Peter with some wording suggestions.
- Anne N commented that reference to the available parking at the old library should not include the spaces near the road that do not belong to the library. Excluding those spaces reduces the parking space from 10 spaces to 8.
- Mary E suggested emphasizing the floor plan in the Q & A about the building design. Mary also had suggestions about the description of the clearstory feature of the design.
- Jean M and J Walden urged greater detail about the increased library utilization. Peter asked Walden to provide one or two sentences to counter the false view that library use is decreasing.
- Terri W said that she wanted the Q & A to clarify that the Trustees had considered all sites, despite voter rejection of two previous sites, before

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concluding that the Sunapee Center site was the best choice. She gave Peter a draft of sentences dealing with this issue.

Peter commented that the 2,200-person mailing is to be a simple black & white printing, with an unstamped postcard included for comments. Having contacted Echo, Peter said their bid for printing the mailing is \$1,700, broken down into \$986 for printing, \$427 for mailing preparation, and \$314 for postage. Doing the mailing our self would require a lot of work dealing with postal regulations regarding use of the Friends indicia. J Wilson suggested that the mailing could be done for about \$600 or \$700 using the prison printing facility. He will look into that. Tracy N agreed to contact her mailing source for another bid.

Terri W asked for comments about the attached cover letter for the Q & A mailing attached. Jim G said that he had sent an email to Terri suggesting adding reference to the site map when talking about the brochure content and providing the voters with more detail about how to get to the comment area on the library website. With no further comments on the letter, Jean Molloy moved to approve the cover letter draft. With 2nd by Jim G, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Foundation Update

- At the first board meeting, Mindy Flater was elected President and John Wilson Treasurer. Vice President and Secretary offices remain unfilled.
- The Bylaws have been worked on. One last draft needs to be looked at. Additional information is being sought from Kilton.
- A signed form has been sent to the Secretary of State with the agreed name “The Abbott Library Foundation.” Paperwork submitted to Secretary of State was returned on September 13.
- IRS/Employer ID obtained 9/15/11
- IRS Form 1023 now being completed.
- The Directors are also working on a strategy for obtaining the \$500k (now \$400k) in pledges prior to the Town/Deliberative session.
- Directors agreed to appoint an Advisory Committee to the Foundation Board. People who have agreed to serve: Scott Flint, Walt Goddard, Dick Dulude, Shaun Carroll, Megan Reed, Jean Molloy, Jim Currier, Kathy Springsteen & Gerry Farland.

F. Marketing Before Vote – Terri W spoke about group meetings planned to promote the new library. These are included in the following list of important dates:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10/5/11 | Meeting with School Board – 7:00 p.m. High School Media Room |
| 10/6/11 | Meeting with Planning Board – 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting Room |
| 10/11/11 | Meeting with Recreation Committee – 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting Rm |
| 10/18/11 | Trustees’ Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Meeting Room |
| 11/4/11 | Budget Meeting with Selectmen – Town Hall Meeting Room. time to be determined |
| 11/5/11 | Library Open House – Abbott Library – 1 - 4 |
| 11/15/11 | Trustees’ Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Meeting Room |

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12/20/11 Trustees' Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Meeting Room
2/7/12 Town deliberative session
1/17/12 Trustees' Meeting – 6:30 p.m – Town Hall Meeting Room
3/13/12 Town Voting

Terri W tried to get a volunteer to direct neighborhood party organizing but no one volunteered to head that activity. Peter suggested, and Terri agreed, that function could be done by the Foundation.

- G. Non-Respondent Donor Mailing – Anne N reported that there were 59 people that did not respond to the donor mailing in 2007. These people were sent a letter describing the options that these donors could take regarding their contributions. Jim G created a two-fold version of the new library brochure to insert with the letter. So far, 8 letters have been returned as undeliverable, accounting for contributions of \$1,926; 4 responses said to keep the donations, accounting for \$1,350; and one response asked for return of \$100. The returns to date account for \$3,376 in donations out of \$22k. Peter U said that after a reasonable time, the next step is to petition the court to allow us to keep the money

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. Other Business: None

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Adjournment: At 8:07 PM Tracy N, with J Wilson 2nd, moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Gottling, Secretary

Abbott Library
PO Box 314
Sunapee, NH 03782

September 22, 2011

Mr. Michael York, State Librarian
NH State Library
20 Park Street
Concord, NH 03801

Dear Mr. York:

We the undersigned Trustees/Alternates of the Abbott Library, Sunapee, NH, are strongly opposed to reducing the funding for the library vans, which are used to support the Inter Library Loan (ILL) program, for the following reasons.

1. No service of the State Library has as much impact on our patrons as Inter Library Loan. It provides New Hampshire with a "virtual state-wide library" allowing borrowers at smaller libraries with smaller collections and budgets access to the same materials that are available in larger towns, and provides everyone access to a larger collection of material. Removing three of the vans would only leave one van to support the entire state, effectively killing the ILL program.
2. The vans are funded directly by a Federal grant, and not by state tax revenues. The average cost to move a book/video/cd, is about 44 cents. The average cost to purchase that item is about \$20.00. This savings means a significant reduction in the cost to New Hampshire taxpayers for their library service. In order to have access to the same material, taxpayers would pay substantially more in the absence of this program. This is a highly efficient use of resources, with an enormous payback.
3. The ILL program is one of the most widely used services in our libraries. More than 800,000 items are transferred annually. It is popular with students who require reference and research materials to complete school assignments; with seniors who do not have the resources to purchase materials that may not be available at their library, and to the patrons who have specific interests that may not be supported at their local library.
4. This is Federal Funding that was targeted specifically at improving library services. It is the judgment of the state library that these ILL vans represent the best use of these funds. Our library staff and our Board of Trustees support this judgment, and so do the patrons who have signed this petition.

As citizens and taxpayers in the State of New Hampshire, we request that the funding for the ILL vans not be changed and that the program be maintained at its current level of service.

Attached is a petition, which has been signed, by citizens and taxpayers in the Sunapee Community opposed to the reduction in service of the ILL program.

Sincerely,

Terri Jillson White, Chair
Abbott Library Trustees

Questions and Answers about the New Abbott Library

These questions or comments were taken primarily from the comments portion of the returned survey cards that were included with the brochure mailed to all voters in early August as well as comments made in public forums and other meeting.

Economy - The economy is bad. Why should we build a new library in these difficult times?

These are tough times but builders will bid lower than in times when they have much more work. Building material prices will also be lower. Also, interest rates are at an all time low and so it is an excellent time to get a bank loan. As a result, this is actually a good time to build the new library.

No Need - We don't need a new library, the current building is adequate.

The present library was built in 1929 and expanded once in 1984. Total library floor space is 3,200 square feet, totally inadequate for current library usage based on State library standards. The 1984 main floor addition houses large print books, mystery books, books on CD, magazines, newspapers, four public computer workstations, two reading chairs, a work table with chairs and the library's single rest room all in 428 square feet. The Children's Librarian Office shares space in an 8' x 14' room that includes a kitchenette, storage shelves and the Library's computer server. The 10-space parking lot is often full even though all of the staff parks offsite. Each new book added requires an old one be taken away. Over 2,000 overflow volumes are in temporary storage at the Safety Services Building and additional items will have to be removed from the library shelves and sent to the storage area this fall. Most children and adult library programs cannot be accommodated within the library and are held at the Church or the Gym. There is a desperate need for additional library space.

No Taxes - Tax money should not be used for the library construction which should be built entirely with private funds (donations). Don't raise my taxes.

No one likes to see taxes raised but public buildings in Town are usually built almost exclusively with tax funds. That was the case with the Town Hall, the Highway Garage and the Safety Services Building. The Library is to be built primarily with private funds (donations) but some public funds are thought to be appropriate since the library is a public building which will be owned by the Town.

The plan is for a 20 year loan taken by the Town and repaid with tax dollars. The loan is about one third of the library project cost and will cost the typical family (with a \$300,000 home) \$20 per year in taxes. This is less than the cost of a single book purchased per year. Most of the funds to build the new library will come from private donations.

Too Expensive, Too Large - The planned library building is too expensive and too large.

The cost of the total project is \$2.7 million. This is less than the initial estimates for either of the two previous efforts to build a new library. It is less than the cost of the Safety Services Building, the last public building constructed in Sunapee.

The Library Trustees have worked hard to get the cost of the project down from the initial estimate of \$3.3 million deferring the addition of the Community Center and other features that added cost. All of these additions and features can be added back at a later date when additional funds become available.

The size of the proposed library is smaller than the plan for the two previous library proposals. It will accommodate expected growth in the collection for approximately 10 years, substantially less than the 20 year growth horizon traditionally used in library planning. It could be argued that the proposed building is too small for Sunapee's future needs.

Digital Technology - The growth of digital technology, iPads and Kindles and online services, will make libraries obsolete.

Libraries are in the business of improving lives for the better and providing access to digital content is the latest way this can be accomplished, but it's not the only way. The Library has taken a balanced approach by maintaining traditional library services including books, audiobooks, movies, and music as well as offering new technology such as loaning Kindle e-readers, providing free access to digital formats such as ebook's, audiobook's, and music online. In 2010 digital content accounted for just 1% of the Library's yearly circulation and the other 99% was the loaning of traditional items such as books, audiobooks, movies, magazines and music. Digital services will continue to grow in the coming years along with the Library's traditional services.

Building Design - The drawing shown for the new library is "ugly". The colors of the trim are terrible. It does not look like a New England library.

The drawings shown are initial architects renderings and do not necessarily represent the final appearance of the building.

Reaction to building design is very subjective. Some will like one design, others will prefer another design. The same is true of trim colors. It will not be possible to find a design or color scheme that all will like. The vast majority of those surveyed liked the design and the color scheme.

Prefer Other Site - Some respondents expressed preference for other sites, among them, Ski Tow Hill, Harbor Hotel/Livery, Knowlton House and Woodbine.

Two of these sites were rejected by the voters in Town elections. The others were ejected by the Library Trustees after careful evaluation as not meeting the library's needs. The vast majority of the respondents approved of the proposed site.

Other Priorities - Other Town construction projects should take precedence over a new library. Specifically cited were a new community center and a new elementary school.

The Town certainly has other priorities in addition to the library. A community center was initially envisioned as part of the library design but was deferred in order to keep costs down. If additional funding becomes available from donors, the community center could be added back into the library plan.

A new elementary school is a matter for the School Board and ultimately the voters, not the Library Trustees who are focused on meeting the pressing need for more and better library space.

Clear Story Windows - The design shows windows for a second story. Is the library two stories or one story?

The library is one story. The one-story design makes it easier for a smaller staff to see and supervise the entire library. The upper windows are not another story but simply provide additional daylight to light the main reading areas, minimizing the use of electric lights while providing higher ceilings in the reading areas.

Basement for Expansion - Shouldn't the library have a basement for future expansion?

The addition of a basement would add significantly to construction costs. The Trustees have sought to keep the initial costs down by building a single story on a slab. There are significant operational advantages to having the library on a single story. Future expansion can be achieved by building additional wings on the building while keeping it a single story.

Energy Use - Won't the new larger library with the high ceiling in the reading areas require excessive amounts of energy for heating and cooling?

The new building is expected to be energy efficient. The plan is to use a radiant floor heating system which will evenly distribute equal amounts of heat through the floor. The heat will radiate upward through furniture in the room and your feet, preventing body heat loss and keeping you warm without over heating the surrounding air. The least amount of heat goes to the ceiling due to inverse stratification. It should be 10 degrees warmer at the floor than the ceiling. Radiant heat is also very efficient so room temperatures can be reduced a few degrees – saving up to 25% on energy costs.

Children From School - How will Elementary School children get from school to the library? There are no sidewalks or paths? Will they have to walk along Route 11?

A walking path is being considered from the Elementary School to the new library site. Library Trustees are working with Town officials to develop an appropriate path. The path contemplated is less than 1/3 mile in length from school to library. The driveway to the library is on a regular school bus route for both the Elementary School and the Middle High School ??? The driveway would be made a regular bus stop, and children could be dropped off at the library after school.

Traffic on Sargent Road - Sargent Road is subject to heavy traffic going to the Transfer Station, R.P. Johnson and the Safety Services Building. Much of this is truck traffic. Isn't this dangerous for children?

A traffic study conducted by the Sunapee Police Department showed substantially less traffic on Sargent Road past the library driveway (700 vehicles/day) than either Main Street (1,900 vehicles/day) or Route 11 (4,800 vehicles/day). The Route 11 traffic includes heavy log-carrying trucks not present on Sargent Road. The present library on the corner of Route 11 and Main Street has much more traffic travelling at higher speeds. The proposed Sargent Road location is potentially much safer.

Charitable Foundation - A proposed Charitable Foundation is being established for the new library's Capital Campaign. Will the Foundation make decisions circumventing the will of the voter?

The Charitable Foundation which is being established by the Library Trustees will be a 501c(3) organization whose only purpose will be fundraising. It will make it easier for donors to make gifts to the library and deduct those gifts from their taxes as charitable contributions. Although the Foundation members will work closely with the Library Trustees, they will not be involved in the decision making relating to the design or construction of the new library or in subsequent decisions about library operation or maintenance. All of these decisions will continue to be made by the elected Library Trustees.

Fundraising - When will fundraising begin?

Formal fundraising will not begin until after the Town vote on the Library Project in March 2012. However, the library plans have been presented to selected potential donors who have been asked to pledge contributions contingent upon a successful Town vote in March.

Old Library Building - What do you plan to do with the present library building?

The present Abbott Library building is owned by the Town and any decision on what to do with it after the library moves out is up to the Selectboard. Disposition of the old library building is not a decision the Library Trustees would make. In 2007 the voters voted against selling the old building.

Planning Board -Why have the Library Trustees not approached the Planning Board with the new construction plan?

The Planning Board will be formally approached by the Claremont Savings Bank, the seller of the lot, when the project is far enough along to bring a request for a lot subdivision to the Planning Board. This is expected to be in the next few months. The Trustees have met with the Planning Board and made an informal informational presentation to update the Board on the Library Plans.

Wetlands - Aren't there wetlands on the proposed library lot? Won't this make building the library more difficult?

Yes, there are wetlands on a small portion of the lot. The wetlands are near the lower, Route 11, side of the 2 ½ acre lot and nowhere near where the building, driveway, or parking lots are to be built.

Abbott Library Letterhead

DRAFT

October, 2011

Dear Sunapee Voter

This letter is an update on the plans for a new library in Sunapee. In early August you should have received a brochure in the mail detailing the plans for the new library along with the drawings of the library and the floor plan. If you did not receive the brochure please stop by the library and pick one up.

The mailed brochure included a response card survey to solicit your opinion on the plans. The results of the survey indicate that 73% of survey respondents who are voters approve or somewhat approve of the plans and 68% approve or somewhat approve of the approach to financing the project. We are gratified by these results.

The survey response card also contained space for comments and we received a number of them, some favorable and some not favorable. We have tabulated these comments and attempted to respond to them on the enclosed "Questions and Answers about the New Abbott Library". You may find some of your own questions and concerns addressed in this paper.

Since the brochure was mailed, we have completed the Purchase and Sale agreement for the land contingent upon voter approval in March 2012. The Selectboard and the Bank (Seller) signed the agreement four weeks ago. We have also established a Charitable Foundation to handle the solicitation of funds for the Capital Campaign and this group is now starting its work and will begin formally soliciting funds after the Town vote. The Foundation has established a goal of having \$500,000 in pledges by March 2012.

Finally, we would again solicit any comments you care to make on our plans. Please provide your comments on the enclosed postcard and return it to the library or put a stamp on and mail it. Public comments can also be made on the library website: www.abbottlibrary.org/ Proposed Library at Sunapee Center. An Open House at the Library with Staff and Trustees on Saturday, November 5 from 1 to 4 pm will provide a further opportunity for you to hear about the plans for the new library and ask questions or make comments.

Sincerely,

Terri Jillson White
Chair, Abbott Library Trustees