

Members Present: Terri Jillson White, Tracy Nangeroni, Rhonda Gurney, Faith Reney, Peter Urbach, Barbara Chalmers, Director John Walden, Alternates Mary Epremian (to replace John Wilson), Anne Nilsen, Jean Molloy
Members Excused: John Wilson
From: Barbara Chalmers

On the above date, the Board held a public forum at the Town Hall meeting room for comments on the future of the library.

Chair Terri White welcomed everyone and summarized Board discussions on the topic to date. She read the Board vote from July stating that the Board would not pursue an article on the Town's March 2011 ballot. The Board will be mailing a questionnaire to the community in September. Terri set out meeting guidelines and asked that comments address the future, not the past, and that input on potential sites and fundraising would be helpful.

1. The following public comments were made:

- 1.1 Betsy Katz (year-round resident, Harbor House Livery (Old Town Hall) Committee member): Betsy reported the Harbor House Livery Committee has voted unanimously that a library would be the best use of the building. It is the heart of the community and as a library could be our cultural and education center. The Planning Board supports the harbor site. In an informal survey conducted in July, 2/3 of those surveyed want community use of the Harbor House Livery building.
- 1.2 Sally Southard (year-round resident, past library trustee and campaign volunteer): People have voted down Old Town Hall and harbor sites. The Ben Mere harbor site was also voted down in the past. She supports looking at the vacant lot at the Sunapee Center.
- 1.3 Walt Goddard (year-round resident): Time will be lost if there is no article addressing a new library in March 2011. Trustees should bring 1 or at most 2 sites to the voters next March. Let's get the site decision behind us. Walt favors the lot at the Sunapee Center.
- 1.4 Steve White (year-round resident): He urged that the Board carefully review the recommendations of the new Town Master Plan. The plan has good advice.
- 1.5 John Mapley (year-round resident): Trustees should consider the old Woodbine Cottage site in the harbor.
- 1.6 Ellie Goddard (year-round resident): She supports the lot at Sunapee Center. It provides space for future growth and space for the after school program outdoor activities. She also noted that the library is a town responsibility and should not have to rely on private funding.
- 1.7 Martin Grady (year-round resident): He doesn't like the harbor sites and supports the lot at the Sunapee Center and we should also consider expanding the present library building. Children's use and safety should be a top priority.
- 1.8 Dave Montambeault (year-round resident, library employee spouse) He doesn't care where a new library is built, but a larger facility is needed. Those present at this meeting are supporters of more library space, but there is half the Town not present here who do not support a larger library. There must be a clearly defined idea. In the next few years, hydro funds could be available towards building a new library. Up to 3 sites should be presented to voters in March 2011.
- 1.9 Heather Weir (year-round resident and library employee): We need a bigger library and a safe space for our children. We cannot meet the needs of all the children that want to participate in library programs due to limited space. She doesn't care where the library goes and supports going to the voters in March 2011.
- 1.10 Alan Lieberman (seasonal resident): The present library is a jewel and is successfully utilizing technology. The facility needs to be larger and he urged Trustees to keep in mind what the library is for.

- 1.11 Charlotte Brown (year-round resident): She urged the Board to bring 1 site to voters in March 2011 and to use the survey results to help select a site. She noted that more than 1 site option will split votes. Funding of land should be part of the warrant article. Funding for a new library should be supported by tax payers. Using hydro funds to pay for a library bond is a great idea.
 - 1.12 Kate Gordon: She supports a location between the elementary and middle/high schools. She likes a site by the Blodgett House. Trustees should preserve the Abbott bequest and move the present building to a new site, add about 2000 sf and with the sale of the present library site, add more square feet to the building in its new lower village location.
 - 1.13 Kevin Rickard (year-round resident): Library location is critical because of its impact on future growth patterns of the town. The Planning Board is charged with thinking about these issues and have identified that Main Street is the area where future growth should occur. He supports either an upper or lower Main Street location. The old Alexander factory is his suggestion for a library site (not the adjacent vacant site previously explored by Trustees).
 - 1.14 George Newert (year-round resident): He owns the old Woodbine Cottage site and urges the Board to consider this as a location for the library. He noted that substantial engineering has been done for this site already and that it is adjacent to the town own bandstand property.
 - 1.15 Ron Garceau: He suggests a swap of facilities with the school board; Library use of the Blodgett House as part of the library with an addition for book stack areas and SAU use of the present library building for their offices.
 - 1.16 Xan Gallup: (Year-round resident, former library Trustee): She doesn't really care where a new library is located, but is concerned about how it will be paid for. Asking tax payers for support should be considered. An article should be on the March 2011 warrant. She noted a lot of people in town don't use the library and will not support paying for expanding it.
 - 1.17 Annette Lieberman (seasonal resident): Non-voting tax payers need to get involved in support of the library. Good luck!
 - 1.18 Vanessa Goad (year-round resident): She urged Trustees to consider the town master plan for future impact. Rte 11 may not be the best corridor for the library. The harbor is a good location and there may be other good locations. She urges funding a capital reserve fund for building a library and agrees a new library is needed.
 - 1.19 Susan Garceau: Has the Micro-precision (Wiggins Machine Tool) site at Rte11/Main St been considered?
2. Since no other attendees wished to speak, Terri White opened the floor to additional comments by those who have already spoken:
 - 2.1. Sally Southard: Tilton Park (Ski Tow Hill) site plan included a community room. This type of space should be part of any plan and available for the use of all people. She commented that library use by children is only 10-15% of total use.
 - 2.2 Kate Gordon: How much is left from the previously raised funds for building a new library? Terri White responded about \$220,000.
 - 2.3 Steve White: Hydro funds will be going to pay down the Safety Services building bond for more than the next few years. Hydro funds can only be used for capital funding. It would be possible to ask the Selectmen/Town to utilize a portion of hydro funds for a new library and it should be on a 2011 warrant article. He again urged the Board to look carefully at the Town master plan (on town web-site).
 - 2.4 Ellie Goddard: Having the library in the Blodgett House is her dream. The library must have a meeting room with lots of storage available to groups that may use the room. She

noted that harbor success depends on businesses there, not what a library could bring to the harbor.

- 2.5 Kevin Rickard: Main Street has the existing infrastructure needed for a library, it is part of a walkable community and vehicle speeds are slower than Rte 11.
- 2.6 Walt Goddard: He feels there must be a March vote and that it is important to take advantage of pricing while the economy is still depressed. Site availability may disappear as time goes on. Hopefully the questionnaire will demonstrate there is broader support for more library space in town than has been mentioned tonight. Costs will only go up.
- 2.7 Bill Roach (year-round resident): He likes the idea of using the Blodgett House as a library and possibly trading the present library for use as an SAU office. A right of way must be maintained to access back land for the school. He urged that the school and library boards get together to discuss the idea ASAP.
- 2.8 Kate Gordon: Can the Blodgett property be shared between the school and the library?
- 2.9 Annette Lieberman: Who is getting the questionnaire? Terri responded the voter list. Annette thought seasonal resident tax payers should get it too.
- 2.10 Betsy Katz: Questionnaire should go to tax payers.
- 2.11 Walt Goddard: Questionnaire should go to tax payers.
- 2.12 Heidi Currier: Questionnaire should go to season residents. She is confused about work being done on the Blodgett House right now; if voters voted down the article to fund renovations last March, how is the school doing work on the building this summer? Trustees need a firm plan including how it will be funded; perhaps a private/public funding split. Given trends toward technology, is more space really needed for a library in the future? Should the library be more of a community center?
- 2.13 Allen Lieberman: We should assume that tax payers want an increase in the tax base in the future to help moderate tax increases. A good library is a key town asset, as well as an asset to future businesses and jobs.
- 2.14 Heather Weir: We need to look at future use. Newport library, for example, offers many programs Sunapee would like to offer but can't due to lack of space. We must plan for 10-15 years into the future.
- 2.15 Sally Southard: She was a librarian and library use is growing as an information center. Old buildings are not suited for libraries. A community center is the future of libraries.

Public comments ended at 7:35 PM

Terri thanked everyone for attending and noted that comments can be posted on the library's web-site.

3. The Board discussed finalizing the questionnaire.

Barbara distributed a copy of several proposed changes in footer, opening language and description of sites to be scored.

Terri questioned if all the sites brought up tonight by the public should be listed on the questionnaire, whether or not we know if they are available for consideration. Rhonda noted that she has spoken twice in the past with the school board chair regarding use of the Blodgett property and that there was no interest. Terri will talk with the school board chair about the suggestions made tonight regarding the Blodgett House. **Action by Terri**

Peter urged that all the sites mentioned be listed. The board should not be concerned about upsetting people, but need to gather as much information as possible.

He also noted that putting a choice of 3 sites to the voters was a mistake. One site should be selected by the Board and only that presented to voters. Tracy agreed with this approach.

Peter suggested a follow-up questionnaire to seasonal residents after we have results from the voter list mailing. Tracy made a motion to mail the revised questionnaire to the voter list, followed by one to the seasonal residents on the tax list, 2nd by Peter, vote unanimous.

Motion by Rhonda to adjourn, 2nd by Terri, vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.