

**The Brookfield Library
New Library Committee
9-16-2015**

Present: Christina Cumberton, Dennis DiPinto (Parks & Rec Dept.), Betsy McIlvaine, Debbie Brooks, Anita Barney, Katherine Ciriello. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Christina talked about the two possibilities now under consideration: the Gurski property and the soccer fields behind the horses. The original master plan for the municipal complex called for a library/cultural center where the soccer fields are. Christina asked Dennis DiPinto if the Ptak property would be suitable for replacement soccer fields, and he replied in the affirmative. Requirements for a soccer field : one acre for the field itself, plus parking. The current field can be used as a full-size field or for two smaller side-by-side fields. The Town will lose the field at the cornfields when that property is developed. Dennis noted that there are state historic easements on the Gurski property. Christina stated that Land Use Manager Alice Dew is in favor of placing a library on the Gurski property. Among other considerations, Anita noted that it would be easy to use a library there as an emergency site if Center School had to be evacuated.

The Gurski property is not protected Open Space, but is under the aegis of the Conservation Commission. Alice Dew noted that even an Open Space designation can be overturned at referendum. The property was purchased for \$625,000, not donated. We need to find out if the town agreed to any restrictions or stipulations when the property was purchased. This committee has been envisioning not a brick-block municipal building but a library that builds on the historic framework, and possibly incorporates some artifacts from the barn on the property. Anita will find pictures of libraries that look like farmhouses or barns and will give them to Christina. Christina will meet with Jan Howard, a Gurski descendant, with Cathy Lasser and Joni Park.

Betsy McIlvaine noted that she discussed the possibility of locating the new library in the Four Corners area with Ray DeStephan and Bill Davidson; there is no suitable property available in the area.

Christina will try to get on the agenda for the October 7 meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss using the Gurski property. Please notify Christina if you'd like to attend with her.

Future meetings: The October and November meetings of this committee will be moved to 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (10/21/15 and 11/18/15) because the Community Room has been rented on those dates.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

Meeting notes submitted by
Anita Barney