

Minutes, Randall Library Trustee Meeting

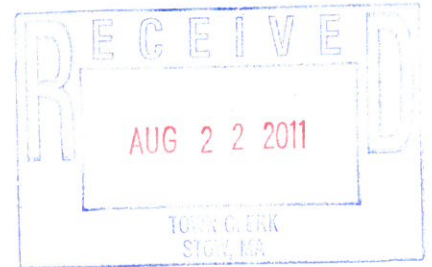
July 25, 2011

Present: Susan Wysk, Tim Reed, Harry Donahue, Amante Gaines, Barbie Wolfenden, Rob Adalpe

Absent: Jane Epstein, John O'Keefe

Visitors: Charlie Kern, Jim Sauta

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.



Public comment requested by Chairman:

Charlie Kern, Selectman liaison to the Library, reported that the town Manager suggested that the Pompo study be widened to include renovation of the Randall Library, e.g., have the same company look at both buildings to produce an estimate for both. Such a move “would probably be cheaper and fairer.” He also suggested that the Library Trustees, the Pompo Use Committee and the Selectmen would meet together on the issue, since both groups require a cost benefits study.

If such a plan were accepted, the Selectmen would ask the town to fund the study at the next town meeting, Nov. 7. There would be three scenarios: Pompo with space for library, Pompo without library, Library. After discussion (see below) this idea was altered to getting proposals for Pompo without the Library, and treating the future of the Randall Library as a restoration project.

Secretary's report:

Moved and accepted as amended

Chairman's report:

See **New Business** below.

Treasurer's report:

- Library funds are currently at \$540K; with a 65/35 split. Rob proposed to sell \$10K of low-price stock fund and write a check to the library.
- Rob noted that at the last MLT meeting the Leicester library received a private donation of \$2M.

Director's report

- Director will present statistics at the next meeting of the Library Trustees, August 10.
- Reading Club registration is down this summer. Circulation is down; DVDs dramatically so, however,. “We still send out more than we borrow and get a little money from the state.” Tim noted he will give a presentation the second Wednesday in August comparing us to neighboring towns.

New Business:

Tim attended the Pompo Use Committee and the Ad Hoc Capital Project Development Committee meetings. Findings:

- Fire Department has formalized plan to build on site, requesting \$7.5 M, asking for 30% to do upfront work, the rest at a subsequent town meeting. At that meeting Charlie Kern discussed the debt servicing issues with Stow. The Chief discussed the fact that their place in the queue started when the new police station had been built and at that time, twenty years ago, the Fire Department was told to wait until next year. Their main issue is having adequate bays for equipment. They have drawings from a prior study.

Tim presented his research on state grants in order to get a realistic picture. He answered the following questions:

1. How often are Grant proposals invited by the state?

Usually each fall, however not every year. The next proposal will probably happen during 2012-2013. Rosemary Waltos, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, said our (possible) application might not be evaluated until FY '17.

2. How frequently are proposals awarded?

There is a wait list. As of April 2002, often towns wait for four years (during which construction costs rise). Money is returned if the towns themselves refuse to vote appropriate town remaining funds for these projects. Formerly grants might cover 70% of costs; today they cover around 50%.

3. How long from planning to occupancy?

Tim's research showed that time from request to occupancy may take up to nine years, citing several MA towns.

- Boxborough started 2001, awarded grant 2004, occupied 2005
- Maynard 2001, awarded 2002, occupancy 2006 (raised \$3.6M after many town meetings)
- Harvard 2004 awarded, cost \$5M over grant; took 7 plus years
- Bolton design 2000, awarded 2005, broke ground 2008 after trying to get town to accept; occupancy 2010.

Conclusion: Getting funding from the state is "chancey." It takes many years to get to occupancy. Best case scenario for Stow would be 2021 for occupancy.

Without state funds, in all likelihood we could not move into Pompo for ten years.

Discussion ensued.

After some research, Tim finds we may be able to add to total 7K – 8K square feet to current library site. There are avenues to explore for other issues, e.g., Pompo may become the center for town meetings. CPC funds also possibly available.

Given Tim's findings on the unlikely premise of receiving state funding anywhere in the near future, it was moved and accepted to remove Pompo from our future plans. Caveat: Harry Donahue wants to make sure we are part of the RFP funds. The Library Trustees

asked the town manager/selectment to ask the town for \$150K for a feasibility plan for both Pompo and Randall.

Other new business:

- We will meet mid-month in August.
- We will now meet the 2nd Wed. of the month.
- Board approved a request for library panels to help with the Maxwell family art exhibit.
- Board approved payment of contract for Minuteman Library – ca. \$19K per year.

Moved and accepted to adjourn meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbie Wolfenden, Secretary
August 1, 2011

