

Abbott Library Trustee Meeting ~ December 14, 2007

Members Present: Peter Urbach, Rhonda Gurney, Steve Fair, Mary Epreman, (alternate for John Mapley), Betty Tatlock, (alternate for Sarah Southard), Lisa Bozogan, Faith Reney. Also present, John Walden, Library Director.

Members Absent: Sally Southard, John Mapley left early, casting no votes.

Meeting Attendees: Peter White, Anne Nilsen, Mary Epreman, Derek Tatlock, Barbara Chalmers, Carolyn Stoddard, Intertown Record.

Submitted by: Lisa Bozogan

On December 14, 2007, those noted above met at the Abbott Library. The following are the minutes relating to topics and discussions that took place.

Peter Urbach opens the meeting explaining that Barbara Chalmers “took us through the spread sheet of cost comparisons...” relating to the proposed new town library. Peter also commented on the past library campaign and monies raised during that effort.

Peter Urbach takes us to the business of Library Trustee approval of warrant articles pertaining to the proposed new town library to be presented to the Selectmen at their upcoming meeting. Rhonda Gurney explains that the New Library Building Committee based their warrant articles almost entirely on Warrant Article #22, written for library plan proposed in 2007. Rhonda noted that the line indicating a \$90,000.00 contribution from the “Friends” was removed from this new article, and that up-to-date reports of monies on hand and past campaign contribution figures were being provided by John Mapley. Rhonda has been working with the Town Manager who has presented the wordage to town council for their approval.

There was discussion about the fact that an 8%, per year (based on the current building estimates) cost increase is added into the total new library expenses, to take into account the rate of inflation.

Discussion on the first article of the evening: Authorization by voters to permit Board of Trustees to build a new Town Library.

As the final draft of the articles pertaining to the proposed new library was not available during this meeting, John Mapley expressed concern about voting on articles that were in “rough draft.”

Barbara Chalmers questioned whether the Board of Trustees needed to accept the report of the Library Building Committee to the Board of Trustees, including the proposed budget.

**Motion made and seconded to accept the Library Building Committee Report, including the proposed budget.
Report accepted unanimously.**

Discussion returns to first article. Although in rough draft, the article will ask voters for permission to raise, through private donations, up to \$4,250,000, for the purchase of land, design, construction, and furnishing of a new town library.

John Mapley, as treasurer of the former capital campaign, will work with us to provide accurate figures pertaining to funds still held from the prior campaign and from other sources. Other sources include, but are not limited to, interest income, fund-raising events, (events other than donations) town appropriated funds, and pledges left to the library by donors to the last campaign.

Mary Epreman explains she will have to abstain from this vote as she feels we should wait another year before moving ahead. Some of her concerns include the one-way traffic pattern becoming a reality and safety. Mary stated that regardless of the outcome, she would not write letters to the editor against this project.

In response to Mary’s concerns, Peter White suggests we give the voters an option to vote to approve to purchase the proposed site for \$400,000.00, but allow them the option of holding off on the construction phase.

Motion made and seconded to approve the following warrant article: *(although in rough draft, and with the knowledge that accurate figures will be placed within the text prior to its presentation to the Selectboard next Monday)* To raise, through private donations, and appropriate up to \$4,250,000, for the purchase of land, design, construction, and furnishing of a new town library?

**4 IN FAVOR (Faith Reney, Lisa Bozogan, Rhonda Gurney, Steve Faith)
3 ABSTENTIONS (Betty Tatlock, Peter Urbach, Mary Epremian)
MOTION PASSES**

Second Article up for discussion: Are you in favor of raising and appropriating \$400,000.00 for the purchase of land on which to build a new town library?

Peter Urbach comments that when we present these articles to the Selectboard they will be formal warrant articles including proper wording and accurate figures.

**Motion made and seconded to approve the following warrant article:
Are you in favor of raising and appropriating \$400,000.00 for the purchase of land on which to build a new town library?**

**4 IN FAVOR (Faith Reney, Lisa Bozogan, Rhonda Gurney, Steve Faith)
1 OPPOSED (Betty Tatlock)
2 ABSTENTIONS (Mary Epremian, Peter Urbach)
MOTION PASSES**

Other Business:

There was discussion about support by the for a new town library on this proposed site.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20