

**Wayland Free Public Library
Library Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting on August 27, 2015
Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library**

Present: Lynne Cavanaugh (after 8:25pm), Christine Cipriani, Tom Fay, Aida Gennis, Jen Gorke, Anne Heller, Judith Hoyer, Ann Knight, Vicki LaFarge, Lynne Lipcon, Sandy Raymond, Betty Salzberg, Rachel Sideman-Kurtz, Thom White.

Call to Order at 7:16 p.m. by Tom Fay, chair of the Library Planning Committee

Public comment There was no public comment.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the meetings of July 27, 2015 and July 30, 2015 were approved unanimously.

Email from Barbara Scolnick to the Committee

Ms. Barbara Scolnick, a committee member who was not able to attend this meeting, sent an email to the entire committee offering comments on the substance of the final draft report which she hoped to be considered during the meeting. Mr. Fay provided a copy of the email for all to review, though committee members had already been sent the email, and stated that the email presented a violation of the Open Meeting Law and offered to send the Attorney General a letter, if determined necessary, reporting and explaining the circumstances. A discussion ensued about the Open Meeting Law with members asking for clarification of it. It was noted that this was most likely an unintentional violation. Ms. Knight thought that sending such a letter would be advisable. Mr. Fay asked for a vote authorizing him to report this event, if necessary. Ms. LaFarge moved that Mr. Fay send a letter, if necessary, and Ms. Heller seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Review of the Current Form of the Library Report

The committee went through the Report of the 2015 Wayland Planning Committee currently on the Library webpage. Several suggestions were made for minor changes and to correct typos.

For example, Ms. Heller passed out a suggested change in the paragraph about one of the sites ("Site A") on the Town Center. She felt that the work of the Council on Aging/Community Center advisory committee regarding that site should be acknowledged in that paragraph.

Another point engendering discussion was to ensure that the language concerning each site is objective and parallel. A reworked introductory paragraph for the DPW site was proposed.

The renovation suggestions for the building at 5 Concord Road (on page 23) were moved to an appendix.

Judith Hoyer Reads the Poem "Books"

Ms. Hoyer, herself a poet, read the poem "Books" by Billy Collins while Ms. Cipriani entered the discussed updates onto the copy of the Report on her computer.

Committee's Role if Trustees Pursue a State Application

Ms. Gennis explained the next steps in the process. The Trustees of the Library will meet August 28, 2015 but will not obtain copies of the most recently revised report. If this report is approved (probably at the following meeting after the Trustees have time to read the report), information will be provided to all the relevant town committees and the public. Ms. Gennis expects that the Trustee's warrant article for the Fall 2015 town meeting will be finalized tomorrow. The drafted article will ask for money for the planning and design phases for a library construction or expansion. An Owners Project Manager must be hired for either an expansion or new build. The Owner's Project Manager would help hire an architect and would help the architect throughout the project. The architect would study Library and Town documents, such as the Committee's Report, and would conduct interviews in town and then make concept designs for at least two sites. After a site is selected to be studied further, a site investigation and geotechnical studies will be done, and then comes a schematic design, and finally an Independent Cost Estimator will be hired to provide a cost estimate. More may be required as the State has not yet published the guidelines to be followed.

The Trustees will need the Committee's help in getting the word out about this process. In particular, persons willing to speak to committees and boards and at the town meeting will be needed. Letters to the Editor in local papers would be helpful.

Ms Gennis hopes that two public meetings will be held at the Library. One will present the findings of this Committee. The other will be an open house to visit and tour the current library.

Ms. Cavanaugh suggested that anticipated questions from the public and their answers be formulated. She also thought that, in particular, communication with the COA/CC committee should take place. Ms. Gennis said that communication was already in progress.

Mr. Fay suggested splitting the Committee in two: one to continue to work with the Trustees and another to work with the public. There was some discussion of this idea and it was dropped.

Mr. Fay asked all present if they were willing to remain members of the Committee until after the end of the Fall Town Meeting. All present indicated willingness.

Acceptance of the Edited Final Report

Ms. Cipriani presented the edited version of the Committee's report, including suggestions made at this meeting. Ms. Gorke moved accepting the new version. Mr. White seconded. The acceptance was unanimous. Mr. Fay will request that Ann Knight remove the current draft version from the website and replace it with the edited version.

Next Meeting

No further meetings have yet been scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Salzberg

Documents distributed:

Agenda for Meeting 8/27/15

Revised Draft report of the 2015 Wayland Library Planning Committee (as currently entered on the library website)

Minutes of July 27, 2015

Minutes of July 30, 2015

Ms. Heller's Suggested Text for Town Center Site A from page 20 of the Revised Report

From: Barbara Scolnick
To: Wayland Library Planning Committee
Date: August 25, 2015
Re: Draft Report

The report of the Library Planning Committee details the many ways in which the current library building is inadequate for 2015 and beyond. The option for continued use, however, seems to be presented with emotional preferences in the report.

p. 21: Site 3: Existing Library Site (5 Concord Road)

Renovating and expanding the current library is the most physically complex option, presenting multiple challenges and great opportunities. Dedicated in 1900, the library is an architecturally significant building with a long history, and is beloved by Wayland residents. Challenges arise on two fronts: the library's property limits, and the building itself. Ways to overcome these challenges are outlined in the conclusion below.

The conclusion in the LPC report for the pros and cons of the current building gives the impression that the LPC approved the two suggestions by committee member Thom White for a strategy to resolve some site issues and that all other issues could be met by one of his suggested outlines for renovation and addition. Although the outlines promise "vastly improved library functionality," such improvements can only be assumed because the building is so limited currently.

p. 22: Conclusion:

Any renovation of the existing library must resolve the issues of parking, vehicle access, septic capacity, wetlands accommodation, and architectural appeal. This can be done with a revised site strategy and one of two renovation options.

The LPC did not vote to adopt these suggested strategies, and so it should not appear to be promoting them by including them as definite and in such detail in the body of the report. If the LPC votes to include the two options in the report, they should be as a separate report in an appendix as ideas by Thom White and not as solutions advocated by the LPC.

As it stands, the Conclusion discounts the disadvantage of the current Library site also cited previously:

p.22: "Historic preservation would place limits on any new design, both now and in the future."

The three options for sites that the LPC report includes give as a disadvantage the challenge to find another use for the current Library building. The report does not include my suggestion in the minutes of the July 27 meeting to use the building as an arts center. Such a center could include gallery and performance space, art studios and workshops. Maintaining the building for in a creative way would require some of the changes for the site that Thom White gave for the Library; but repurposing would give Wayland what might be called an innovation center.

The 1900 building has its character because the architectural style was considered appropriate for a public library, an aesthetic that has created a monument in itself. An improved library in Wayland to meet current uses and needs as well as in the future deserves a building designed specifically to meet the requirements of efficiency and aesthetics in its operation as a suitable library.