

**Wayland Free Public Library
Library Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting on September 21, 2015
Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library**

Present: Lynne Cavanaugh, Maureen Cavanaugh, Christine Cipriani, Gretchen Dresens, Tom Fay, Aida Gennis, Neil Gordon, Anne Heller, Judith Hoyer, Sarah Hubbell, Ann Knight, Vicki LaFarge, Lynne Lipcon, Daryl Mark, Sandy Raymond, Betty Salzberg, Barbara Scolnick, Rachel Sideman-Kurtz, Thom White.

Call to Order at 7:09 p.m. by Tom Fay, chair of the Library Planning Committee

Public comment

Neil Gordon was introduced as a newly appointed member of the Committee. He spoke a little about his background as the CEO of the Discovery Museum in Acton. Previously, he was at the Children's Museum in Boston.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the meeting August 27, 2015 were approved unanimously.

Update from Library Trustees regarding acceptance of the WLPC report

Ms. Gennis thanked the committee for the report, which was accepted at the last Library Trustees meeting.

Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article

Ms. Gennis passed out copies of the town meeting warrant article, for library planning and design funds, prepared by the Trustees. The first paragraph of this document is the statement of the article, as it will appear in the warrant. The rest of the document (five pages) is an explanation to aid the Finance Committee to prepare comments to be published with the article in the warrant.

Mr. Fay asked the Committee to vote on the article only, the first paragraph of the document handed out. The vote was unanimous in support of the article.

Ms. Gennis and Ms. Knight then left the meeting to present the article to the Wayland Finance Committee which was meeting concurrently. They later returned reporting a favorable reception there.

Discussion of Communicating with and Educating Residents Regarding the Warrant Article

Mr. Fay reminded the Committee that most people in town are unaware of the article and in fact, many do not know that there will be a fall town meeting. There has already been an article in the Crier, but Mr. Fay noted that was not enough. People must be contacted face-to-face and by email. Mr. Fay asked for suggestions from the Committee.

The following suggestions were offered by members of the Committee:

Using the Library Website for information posting.

Using humor and eye-catching graphics in messages, one example is a video: "Librarian Rhapsody" made in Australia, which illustrates some of the points we would like to make.

Posting information in the library.

Sending information to the Wayland Enews, school organizations, the Council on Aging and just talking to neighbors.

Using our personal email contacts to communicate with people.

Setting up a table at the transfer station, and maybe signs on private property.

Ms. Salzberg has already written an article about the Report in the Wayland Voters Network and there has also been a short summary there of all the proposed warrant articles, including the Library warrant article.

Mr. Fay mentioned four events which would help offer information to the public:

Oct. 17 A Pop-Up Park at the Town Center sponsored by the COA/CC

Oct. 22, a Trustees meeting in the evening for Q & A for the public

Oct. 24, an Open House at the Library

Nov. 5, an evening Open House at the Library and Q & A time.

Other suggestions for information to the public:

Develop a FAQ.

Place a banner at the library. It is not clear whether a banner can say, "Vote For" or can only state: "Go to Town Meeting." This needs to be verified.

Information be made available at the next book sale.

Putting information in the Library Newsletter.

Use of Facebook.

It was suggested that the merchants at Town Center might be interested in knowing about the Warrant Article, especially since one of the possible suggested sites is at the Town Center and a library would contribute to having more activity there.

A number of people noted that it was important that people understand that if the article does not pass, there is no chance of getting state funding at this time—if it does not get approved now, it will not happen. If we do not get the funding, our tax money, which is already allocated to the state library construction grant program, will go to fund library improvements in other towns.

It was noted that a new library building has been on the capital improvement budget since 2005. It is expected that the most frequent question people will ask is "how much will our tax bills go up? We have to emphasize that it won't go up much for this warrant article, if at all, because it is only a study. Maybe we should have figures ready about how much each resident would pay each year if we do build and we do get the grant. It was pointed out that a new library or library expansion will be a lot cheaper than the high school.

Also, the emphasis should be on how good a new library could be. What could we offer?

It was noted that we must emphasize that one important possibility is preservation, renovation and expansion of the current building.

A new subgroup

Ms. Heller proposed a subgroup of 3 to 4 people from the Planning Committee to work with the Trustees to come up with an action plan. Ms. Salzberg wanted assurances that the composition of the subgroup would not violate the open meeting law re: quorums concerning either the Trustees or the LPC. This was assured.

This subgroup would come up with a list of tasks, an FAQ, a suggested email message (which people could modify when they send to friends), some letters to the editor suggestions and so forth. Volunteers for this subgroup were Ms. Dresens, Mr. White, Ms. LaFarge and Ms. Hubbell.

First suggestions for FAQ

1. Why now?
2. What is the cost of this study?
3. What is the cost of building?
4. Can we wait until after the COA/CC is funded/built?
5. What's wrong with the library now?
6. What will happen to the current building if a different site is chosen?
7. How long has this been studied?
8. How can I get involved?
9. Where is the Town Center site?
10. What does the \$150,000 pay for?
11. Is this the same/ to be combined with/ the COA/CC?
12. Where can I get more information?
13. Who is supporting this study?
14. Where will the \$150,000 come from?
15. Have other towns applied for grants?
16. How does our library compare to libraries in towns with similar populations?
17. Libraries may not exist in the future so why do this?

Some Groups to Contact

Committee members named some groups they belonged to or were close to that could be contacted. These included, the Wayland Children & Parent Association (WCPA – a preschool and young child parent group), the Wayland Dads, the Neighbor Brigade, the Historical Society, Wayland-Weston Crew, the WTDC (Wayland Town Democratic Committee), and Arts Wayland. It was suggested that people on the Committee email members of these organizations that they know separately and not use the organization list serves.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 7 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Salzberg

Documents distributed:

Agenda for Meeting 9/21/2015

Minutes of 8/27/2015

Town Meeting Warrant Article for Library Planning and Design Funds

Wayland Free Public Library Talking Points