

**Wayland Free Public Library
Library Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting on May 9, 2017
1 Old Sudbury Road**

Present: Lynn Cavanaugh, Maureen Cavanaugh, Christine Cipriani, Tom Fay, Vicki LaFarge, Anne Heller, Sarah Hubbell, Lynne Lipcon, Daryl Mark, Tim Marsters, Barbara Scolnick, Rachel Sideman-Kurtz, ex-officio: Aida Gennis, Ann Knight, Dana Mastroianni

Call to Order at 8:00 p.m. by Tom Fay.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2017 were approved unanimously (12-0-0)

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Grant Application

Ms. Gennis updated the Library Planning Committee (LPC) on the status of the state grant application, including (but not limited to):

- Article 11 to authorize submission of the state building grant application to the MBLC passed at Annual Town Meeting (ATM), 202-91.
- A certified copy of the vote was submitted to the MBLC
- The MBLC returned binders to the Town, which confirmed it is reviewing the application
- Wayland should hear by mid-July with either a yes, no, or waitlisted
- Wayland Free Public Library (WFPL) Board of Trustees preferred outcome is to be on the waitlist, allowing more time for public outreach and fundraising It was made clear by Ms. Gennis, that this preference is an in-committee acknowledgement since the state does not allow submissions of requests to be placed on a waitlist.
- If the Town receives a “yes” this July, the funding must be in place within the next 6 months. However, the state is aware that Wayland’s Annual Town Meeting in April/early March is the time for funding requests and will allow us to make the big ”ask” at 2018 ATM If a grant is awarded in a future year, the ‘ask’ for Town funds would occur at the Annual Town Meeting that follows.
- Boards that supported this article were the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Wayland Historical Society (the Grout-Heard House Museum, next to the Library), LPC and WFPL. There were a few individuals who stood to object to the article citing, primarily, that their individual needs are fulfilled with the current library as it is.
- While WFPL may be at 5 Concord Road for another ten years or more, its reuse needs to be tackled; discussed having a forum/s to elicit ideas
- While the WFPL Board of Trustees is responsible for the building, land and funds, the Library is a town building on town land and belongs to the Town. The Trustees cannot make decisions about reuse of a town building, such as locating another town use there, or a sale, or even a lease, etc. Such decisions require a town process.
- Discussed keeping it as a satellite library; however, given operating costs and the small size of the Town, supporting a second library building could be difficult

- Given how the library was willed to and accepted by the Town, a library use may be necessary in some portion of the library; this needs further research and consideration, perhaps even an interpretation by a probate court
- Moving forward, it was agreed the library needs to be kept in the news

Proposed Design Discussion

Tappe Architects prepared preliminary drawings for the application, assuring the design met the MBLC requirements. Once funding is awarded, Tappe will refine the drawings with public forums and input.

Concerns heard from the public during forums and ATM focused on the exterior design (the building envelope), location of building on the library portion of the 195 Main Street lot, and the design of the entrance lobby. Less concern was expressed about the interior layout.

The feedback and concerns discussed by LPC members included:

Exterior

- Desire for a building that feels more coherent and integrated than the present design
- Does not reflect the Cochituate neighborhood and the Wayland context; although we discussed having a building that was not faux colonial, the present exterior design still does not seem to fit the context of the site
- Seems over-designed with many pop-ups, differing roof heights, a hodge-podge of joints
- Seems barn-like
- Feels too massive
- Too many flat surfaces; lack of curves and arches
- Tower seemed out of proportion, looked like an add-on
- So much western glass may make it difficult to manage heat and glare at a reasonable cost
- No street entrance may make the building seem unwelcoming/inconvenient, especially for pedestrian traffic
- Barrier wall along the street side is awkward, not understanding purpose, wonder whether cost may be not worth the purpose (ask Tappe re: purpose/intent for it)
- No sense of playfulness at the children's room end

Interior

- Desire for an interior that projects more warmth and coziness
- Lobby does not seem to work;
- Pillars in the lobby are a problem, awkward, in the way
- Perhaps trying to evoke the rotunda from the present Library is not feasible
- Children's room seems too small

General Thoughts

- Important to collate and refer back to data from visits to other libraries, including with pictures, to identify what we liked and to communicate this to the architects. Key themes were light, a sense of coziness, and buildings with personality
- Residents have an emotional connection to the present library; important to have a design that will promote an emotional connection to this building as well
- Implied realism and precision of the drawing may have created the impression that feedback from community meetings was not heard and responded to despite statements, and the reality, that this is not a final design;
- Important to remind stakeholders that we are designing a building for community needs both now and twenty plus years in the future. Public buildings should have at least a 20+ year life. Need to remember, that the Town can only apply for a building grant (for expansion or new construction) once every twenty years
- Important to note that some people did like the design, in particular, the glass and openness, but they were not vocal

The meeting ended with the agreement that the design needs further discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Cavanaugh and Vicki LaFarge

Documents distributed:

Agenda

Minutes of January 25, 2017