

BOOTH & DIMOCK LIBRARY RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES WITH COVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting date and time: January 18, 2022. 6:15 PM

Location: Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, 1134 Main Street, Coventry, CT

Members present: Library Committee: Deborah Walsh (Chair), James Parda (Secretary), Dudley Brand, Tim Ackert, and John Twerdy. Council: Lisa Thomas (Council Chair), Jon Hand (Secretary), Martin Milkovic(Vice-Chair), Robyn Gallagher, Matthew Kyer. Also attending were: Margaret Khan (Library Director), Ken Best DRA (Architect), Ronald Paolillo DRA (Project Manager), Ben Crnic (Journal Inquirer reporter), Sondra Astor Stave(Library patron).

Meeting called to order: 6:15 pm by Chair Thomas.

New Business: After everyone introduced themselves, Committee Chair Walsh briefed the Council on the historical context of past Library Committees from as long as 6 years ago. Architect Ken Best gave the group a guided tour of the project describing the new entrance, new elevator location, new security, circulation desk re-location, re-use of furniture, covering and use of the current courtyard, how the children and teen areas will change, keeping most of the same lighting, the community room capacity, new handicap restrooms that meet code, eliminating water intrusion, new roofing, converting the old elevator space and changing the current staircase area.

Questions asked included collection stability, the disposition of the mural of Coventry Village, landscaping and drainage changes, roof and wall construction, areas of refuge, building codes and nursing mother station options. Director Khan said the collection will remain stable. There is anticipated to be enough room with revised shelf configuration. The mural location is being considered. The Committee will hear from the artist at their January meeting. Ultimately the Library Trustees will have to decide the matter. Landscaping will be changed outside to accommodate the courtyard modification and drainage. Ken Best explained how concrete block wall construction hampers proper water drainage and the new roof and courtyard infill will eliminate the water intrusion. The areas of refuge are important since a library does not use a sprinkler fire suppression system. A nursing mother station location is being considered.

Material costs and scarcity are becoming a concern. Bidding the job is expected in February. The Council was made aware that Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetlands have approved permits for the community room parking needs and drainage.

Adjournment: Motion - Twerdy. Second-Ackert. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 6:51

Respectfully submitted,

James Parda
Secretary

