BOOTH & DIMOCK LIBRARY RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting date and time: April 29, 2020. 9 AM

Location: Town Hall Annex / ZOOM conference

Members present: at Annex - Deb Walsh, James Parda, Joseph Jankowski, John Elsesser (Town Manager); on ZOOM - William Bonney, Dudley Brand, John Twerdy, Tim Ackert (arrived 9:08) Margaret Khan (Library Director), Ken Best (DRA), Jon Hand (Council member) listening on Zoom

Meeting called to order: 9:01 am.

Audience of Citizens: There were no comments from citizens.

Acceptance of minutes for February 26, 2020 meeting: Motion to accept Brand; Second –Twerdy. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports: Walsh reported that she was ‘zoomed in’ to the Council’s Finance Committee meeting. She explained to Finance that the $2.4M project was a comprehensive renovation plan. Cuts would damage the project. This was a long term solution to the problems not a budget issue. Finance voted to cut the project. Council received many letters of support for the project at their April 20, 2020 meeting.

Elsesser said that the Council wants a plan to match the $850K grant. He offered the possibility of the options of an architect or engineer to investigate the source of water incursion.

Khan reported that she was searching to secure additional grants. We have to hold off contacting the State Library regarding a grant extension or revision until the town has a plan, given the current fiscal situation and State Library hiring. Best speculated in a short summary of how revising a plan would work with requests for variances, phasing in some repairs and separate bids.

Old Business: None

New Business:
* Discussion of the Directive from the Town Council:

Jankowski expressed the disappointment of the Library Trustees that the $2.4M plan was rejected. The Committee performed as requested. The opinion to pursue a $1.7M project may be futile given the likely grant reduction. Bonney offered to donate his engineering services to the project given the time constraints the Committee is now under to investigate the water incursion. Ackert expressed concern that if the new guidance from the Council is just to solve the water incursion problem then there is no need for the Committee, and it will probably not meet the State Library grant funding standards. The original charge was met by this Committee. Twerdy commented that the Council has set out to “not spend a dime”. They are essentially wasting time and ignoring the good points of the project. Parda pointed out that the Council direction ignores safety and sanitation issues for all persons using the library. Without adequate egress from the lower floor, fixing code violations and a sanitary building there is not a safe environment for everyone. Brand commented on the importance of a roof design to direct water away from the building by getting water beyond the outside wall. This would mean covering the courtyard. Creating only unoccupied space would be a waste. Khan reminded the Committee that if the project was just about water incursion then the Council needs to discuss this with the Library Trustees. Walsh noted that while the Council vote was unanimous, she felt that some
Council members were genuinely concerned that the project at $2.4M would not survive a referendum due to the crisis created by Covid-19.

* Request for Funds: Motion by Ackert - To respectfully request funds from the Town Council to hire DRA to assist the Committee in complying with the Council's directive to reduce the project to $1.7M. Second-Brand. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion - Erand. Second-Ackert. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned: 10:35

Respectfully submitted,

James Parda
Secretary