

Chester Library Building Committee
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2017
Community Meeting Room
203 Middlesex Turnpike
Chester, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Denny Tovey, Chairman at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included: Denny Tovey, Steve Tiezzi, Chuck Mueller, Cary Hull, Stephanie Romano, Bob Gorman, Lois Nadel, Terry Schreiber, and Pat Holloway. John Williams of Parks and Rec and Lauren Gister were also present. The Audience of Citizens included Susan Wright.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

Terry Schreiber made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Bob Gorman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN PRESENTATION

Lauren Gister reported that the Public Information Session was very professional and informative.

The Committee discussed the underwhelming turnout for the Information Session, and suggested other locations to give the presentation so more citizens, especially young families, will participate; for example, perhaps a streamlined version of the presentation to PTO, Rotary and the Planning and Zoning Board. It was also suggested that the presentation be uploaded to the Town and Library websites.

The Committee also discussed involving the Town's Bonding Counsel to provide information on the bonding process. It was noted that the current Grant for the project expires this year. The Grant requires that "progress" must be made on the project. How "progress" is determined was unknown.

It was reported that housing the Library in the Goods Building is not viable due to structural concerns, ADA requirements, and parking issues. Any comments relating to the Good Building should be referred to First Selectwoman Gister.

The Committee discussed possible fundraising opportunities (PTA, Rotary, local businesses).

The BOS will discuss the project at their next meeting. Lauren Gister, while supportive of the project, expressed concern that the State's financial crisis may have an impact on available funding for the Library/NQP project.

The need for a Referendum to determine if the Town wishes to pursue the project

was discussed.

SCHEDULE GOING FORWARD

Denny Tovey presented a hypothetical time frame in an ideal situation for the sake of easy of planning and to get a better idea of finances.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of using a Construction Manager on the project.

The Committee also briefly discusses how much each of the parts of the project cost. They explained that the total cost of the library building with hard and soft costs is \$2.7 million, and the site costs including parking and drainage is \$4.7 million.

NEW BUSINESS

Denny Tovey stated that Drayton has completed their task. They will create presentation boards to hang in Town Hall and the current library building with information on the project.

The next scheduled meeting is June 7th.

ADJOURNMENT

Terry Schreiber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Bob Gorman seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Helchowski
Clerk