

TOWN OF CHESTER CONNECTICUT
LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
July 26, 2017
Chester Town Hall
Community Room

CALL TO ORDER

Denny Tovey called the meeting of the Library Building Committee to order at 7:06PM. In attendance included: Denny Tovey, Cary Hull, Stephanie Romano, Lois Nadel, Terry Shriever, Peter Harding, Pat Holloway and First Selectwoman Lauren Gister. Absent: Bob Gorman, Chuck Mueller, and Aaron Page.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Pat Holloway made a motion to accept the June 7, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Terry Shriever seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE FROM RECENT SELECTWOMEN AND BOARD OF FINANCE MEETINGS

At the July 20th, BOF meeting, BOF members listened to comments from audience members both in support and against the NQP project. The BOF plans to schedule a meeting, with the NQP project as the only agenda item. At that meeting, their intent is to make a final decision on forwarding the project to Referendum; also the Library Committee may present a short presentation on the project to the BOF at that time.

Lauren Gister clarified that the vote at the BOS meeting was only to re-word the original motion requesting that the BOF forward the project to a Referendum, but not necessarily to hold said Referendum during the general election in November.

GRANT EXTENSION

Lauren Gister reported that she has drafted a letter to the State Library Commission requesting and extension to the \$1M grant. This letter will be on their September agenda and a representative from the Library Building Committee should be present at the State Library Commission meeting in September. The packet of information distributed to various Boards/Commissions will be provided to the State at that meeting to “show progress”.

FUND RAISING

The Board discussed potentially beginning to collect pledges (not cash or checks at this time) from local businesses and individuals. This would give the Library Building Committee a better understanding of how much the Town would need to bond, should the project be approved at Referendum.

Pat Holloway developed a draft Pledge form. The Library Board of Trustees would have the final say on whether or not an anticipated pledge form will be released and to whom.

Lauren Gister mentioned that there is the potential for fundraising after the fact, and that once the library is built, should it be built, people will continue to donate or leave money to the Library in wills, etc.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Holloway spoke with John Williams regarding the development of a video of the presentation given at the various community information sessions and at other board meetings. Any funding for said video would be provided by the Board of Trustees, not the Town.

The Committee discussed the possibility of a ‘Referendum for a Referendum’ that would allow the Town to vote on whether or not they would like the project to move forward.

Some Committee members expressed concern that the BOF could choose to not send the project to a Referendum and “shut down” the project without input from the Town via a Referendum. The possibility of a Petition to request that the item be brought to Referendum was discussed but it was determined that legal review of the State Statute would be required to pursue this option further.

Next Meeting – 9/6/17 – possible items for discussion at that meeting include:

- Draft letter to State requesting grant extension
- John Williams video
- Fundraising

ADJOURNMENT

Peter Harding made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Lois Nadel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Helchowski
Clerk