

Lucius Beebe Memorial Library
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Date: April 23, 2020

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting via Zoom *(Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation)*

Trustees Present

Jeffrey Quinn, Cindy Schatz, Laura Godwin, Adam Rodgers, Aimee Lominac, Kevin Scanlon, Chris Barrett, Susan Wetmore, Tim Healy

Staff: Catherine McDonald, Jaclyn Powers

Public: Brian McGrail, Paul Reavis, Bob DiBello

Documents

Agenda

Secretary's Report

Staff Reports (December and January)

Operating Budget Status Report

Gifts and Grants Status Report

Gift Fund Summary

Proposed Articles for Town Meeting Revising Zoning On/Near Library

Map of Plots Affected by Proposed Re-Zoning

Scanlon called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Public Participation moved to first on the agenda to accommodate public participants.

McGrail presented a proposal to re-zone an area of Wakefield that stretches from the plot just behind The Savings Bank Northward to the plot on which sits the Western-most portion of the Library. The opinion of the Library Trustees is being sought before advancing the proposal to a full vote at Town Meeting. The proposal would change these plots from General Residence district to Business district to allow for the renovation of the plot behind the Savings Bank and clean up zoning of the nearby plots. The change would affect a group home abutting the land The Saving Bank hopes to renovate, as well as a law office, a portion of the land on which the Library sits, and a portion of the Avon Street public way.

Discussed effect to the library - would not affect current operations, but would grant flexibility in use of the library's limited parking area.

Discussed reason for involving the Trustees. The Planning Board is interested in getting the Library's position before deciding how to proceed, since it would directly impact the Library.

Discussed a second related article that would go to Town Meeting that would allow pursuit of relief from dimensional requirements or limits on redevelopment. Vertical limitations would remain in place to ensure no oversized developments would tower over the rest of downtown.

Discussed why the re-zoning stopped just before the Post Office. Rationale was that doing so would require coordination with the Federal Government, and would slow down the process. Also Post Office plot is relatively large, and would represent a much larger change than is warranted.

Discussed Accessory Use limits under current zoning. No concrete examples of practical limits that the library might encounter under current operations/services were given.

Discussed one hypothetical situation that could benefit the library: an event held on the library plaza serving food may require a vendor truck parked in the library lot. Currently that may be prohibited because of zoning where the parking lot is.

Discussed hypothetical situation of what would happen to the plot if library were moved and town sold the land. An article would automatically be presented to town meeting changing the zoning to the most restrictive zoning possible.

Discussed the impact on the group home. The home is currently exempt from zoning restrictions under federal law. The home is classified as a Single Residence by the courts as long as it is licensed by the state.

Discussed taxation impact on the plots that would have a zoning change if the article were to pass. Taxation is currently based on usage rather than zoning, so theoretically there should be no change. McGrail stated that taxation decisions are occasionally difficult to predict.

Discussed ownership of the Law Office, and its plot.

Planning Board looking for opinion of the Trustees by vote from the library prior to the Planning Board meeting on 4/28.

Final vote on the proposal would be at Town Meeting on 6/8.

Barrett moved to endorse the proposal by The Savings Bank to update zoning according the article submitted to Town Meeting and presented to the Trustees. Lominac seconded. Unanimously approved.

Acceptance of Secretary's Report

Schatz moved to accept Secretary's Report from the previous meeting, Godwin seconded, motion passed, unanimously approved.

Staff Reports

Rodgers moved to accept the director's and staff reports, Healy seconded.

Discussed the great work being done by the staff to increase remote programming and ebook awareness and availability. Somewhere around 50 people participated in the Trivia on Tap remote event.

Discussed possible adjustments required by changing financial picture in town due to closure of non-essential business. The town is keeping the department directors involved and up to date, but no specifics at this time.

Discussed the update of the library web site. The money has already been set aside, and the project is moving forward. Plans for new carpeting may have to be on hold depending on budgetary impacts.

Discussed placing library focus on uplifting content, and opportunity for outreach to patrons who do not regularly come in to the library.

Discussed ensuring staff have appropriate equipment for remote work. As of the meeting all known staff equipment needs had been met.

Discussed status of the library wifi. The wifi is still on.

Discussed whether there was any funding in the federal CARES Act for summer learning programs. The library will look to partner with the town school system where possible. The MBLC has some funds from that act, but how those will be spent or distributed had yet to be determined.

Discussed how only Dave Mason with Building Services is still entering the facility periodically to check on the building. The Library has been professionally cleaned during the closure.

The motion to accept the staff reports was approved unanimously.

Public Participation

See above.

Correspondence:

None.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

None.

Building and Grounds:

None.

Friends: The Friends meeting was conducted remotely. They discussed the Open House event to recruit new members and to generate interest in the group. They identified new people interested in helping with the Book Sale, and are in the process of contacting other people who came out for the event by phone to encourage continued engagement. Given the statewide closures there will be no Book Sale this year. The goal for the group is to integrate new members with long-time members.

Gift Funds:

None.

Legislative Advocacy: Schatz and Powers attended an advocacy event at the Peabody Institute in Danvers.

Personnel: None

New Business

Scanlon will attend the Planning Board meeting to represent the Trustees.

Beebe Library will coordinate with other area libraries to come up with a unified re-opening plan.

Both Plaza Jazz and the regular Summer Reading program plans are to be determined.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

Adjourn

Healy moved to adjourn, Wetmore seconded, motion passed, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.