



TOWN OF DIGHTON Library Building Committee

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person at
Old Town Hall, 1111, Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

This was a hybrid meeting with adequate and accessible access through Zoom.

1. Call to Order: 4:00 PM by Chair Ron O'Connor
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – In-person participants: Ken Pacheco, co-chair; Jonathan Gale; Nicole Mello; Mike Mullen; Britt Grealish-Rust; Pat Gailes; James Aguiar; Jocelyn Tavares; Ron O'Connor

Zoom participants: Marc Tavares

3. Open House Recap: Ron asked the committee for their opinions.

Pat thought it went well.

Jonathan explained that he had about 8 - 10 questions asked related to ADA and the building, and pertaining to specific and/or personal disability.

Ken was happy with the support from the attendees. Pat agreed with the general sense of the support. She added attendees were impressed with how well the building was preserved and how nice it looked. Thanks were given to Jim.

Jim mentioned that a lot of things fell into place to make the exterior shingling successful: vendors, supply of the shingles, contractor work.

Jonathan also shared positive feedback about how informative the tours of the building were.

Nicole commended the organization of the event within the logistical limits that was allowed for the open house and how well it came together in a short time.

Britt shared her experience of someone who appeared to change his mind about the library project after the visit with the tour helping his understanding of some of the messaging behind the building.

Ron also thanked Laura Medeiros for her work for cable. She recorded a tour and recorded shots from the open house.

Mike asked if the tours met expectations for the attendees. Ron thought those who knew the building expected what they saw. First time visitors were impressed. There was also a recognition that people could imagine a library in that space. There was understanding of the proposed craft space and how it worked with the Children's Room. Ron acknowledged entering the building from the front entrance made a good impression.

Mike appreciated the film coming off the windows and how it helped make the space pop. The detail around the windows was great. Mike complimented the contractor and his crew.

Pat asked if there were any questions about the finances. Mike explained there were three and those attendees were satisfied with the answers.

Jonathan asked if anyone left written questions. Jocelyn went through the three questions. One was if movies would be shown. Jocelyn explained the library shows them now and would continue. Britt and Pat thought the question focused on afternoon matinees. The current movie license would transfer to the new location. Jim asked about the need for a screen. The library already has one that seems like it would be more fitting with the high ceilings. It does demonstrate the preference for mobile furnishings.

Another question was about the impact of heating costs with the high ceilings, and if there was a way to lower the ceilings. Pat agreed it was a recurring question. Jim answered that new insulation was installed, as well as fans or other ventilation systems that would move around both warmed and cooled air in the space.

The last question was that the presentation was nice, but there was no mention of any staff space.

Jocelyn noted from her time with attendees that committee should be clear where the funding for the town meeting warrant articles is coming from, and how we intend to fund the furnishings, fixtures and equipment. A town resident also asked how to best advocate for the project.

Jonathan asked who is the right person to speak to these questions at Town Meeting. Jocelyn suggested one central clearinghouse for questions. Mike suggested that for Town Meeting purposes, one of the Chairs should be the contact and Joe Shea of Granite City Partners would be in attendance as well. He recommended speaking to the moderator in advance of the meeting. Jim thought all financial questions traditionally go to the Finance Committee or Board of Selectmen. Jim has concerns that the Finance Committee has not been involved in finances of project, but that committee has credibility to speak at town meetings.

Ken pointed out that Finance Committee will give their recommendation and asked if the Selectmen made their recommendations yet. Mike reaffirmed that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) would recommend the CPC specific article. Pat gave her experience with CPC articles and having a committee expert to also speak to the article.

Jocelyn asked if there was opportunity to speak to project with Capital Outlay report. Mike said they were taking a broad approach to their report. Jocelyn also asked about the ability to provide a presentation. Mike said it would be at the discretion of the moderator.

Jonathan asked about handouts and Mike explained the special law regarding placement of literature at voting. Ron was determined to be the most appropriate spokesperson if questions came up on the Town Meeting floor.

Returning to the advocacy comment from above, Mike cautioned that the building committee has an obligation to present information and inform the public. There are ethics considerations.

Pat discussed the Friends advocacy efforts.

Jim addressed the potential question of what would happen to the Carnegie building. Discussion focused on the appropriate party to address this answer. The Carnegie building is still being used for library purposes, but the town has made some investment with heating and cooling.

Mike gave an update on the Cultural Facilities Fund grant. There is a chance for funding in Fiscal Year 2024.

4. Annual Town Meeting: No further questions. Combined the discussion with the Open House.
5. Ken moved to approve May 8, 2023, minutes as presented. Britt seconded. Ken pointed out an error in the minutes. Jocelyn will change. Ken moved to make amendments to the minutes. Jim seconded.

Ken Pacheco: Aye	Mike Mullen: Ay	Jim Aguiar: Aye
Jonathan Gale: Aye	Britt Grealish-Rust: Aye	Jocelyn Tavares: Aye
Nicole Mello: Aye	Pat Gailes: Aye	Ron O'Connor: Aye
		Marc Tavares: Aye

Motion for the amendment of minutes passed.
Original motion to approve minutes as amended.

Ken Pacheco: Aye	Mike Mullen: Ay	Jim Aguiar: Aye
Jonathan Gale: Aye	Britt Grealish-Rust: Aye	Jocelyn Tavares: Aye

Nicole Mello: Aye Pat Gailes: Aye

Ron O'Connor: Aye
Marc Tavares: Aye

Minutes approved.

6. Ken moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded.

Ken Pacheco: Aye Mike Mullen: Ay
Jonathan Gale: Aye Britt Grealish-Rust: Aye
Nicole Mello: Aye Pat Gailes: Aye

Jim Aguiar: Aye
Jocelyn Tavares: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Marc Tavares: Aye

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.