

When: 6:00p, Monday, December 18, 2023 / Where: Zoom

Attendees: David Detmold, Gretchen Wetherby, Louisa Khettab, Lydia Ievins, Margot Malachowski, Miryam Vesset, Nancy Crowell, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley

6:04 Call to order

Minutes from 11/27/23 approved

6:06 Director's report

6:16 Discussion: Public forum debrief

- WQ reviewed with Walter, positive feedback. CK: thought both went well; notable that not a single person said "absolutely not!" (GW: did walk into forum with someone who said "the library we don't need," but then she didn't speak up in mtg.)
- Farren? Not currently owned by town, probably won't be until May. During strategic planning process, people wanted lib in towntown TF. We will update webpage with more exhaustive site selection timeline.
- Combine with Sr Ctr? Roberta thought maybe starting to build new Sr Ctr in 5 years. Combined bldg not feasible per terms of grant.
- Libs evolving to meet desires/needs of community, senior centers running through same challenges. Right now, seniors shying away from places advertised/labeled as senior centers. Lib could play up how it offers services/opps for seniors. Local history room, makerspace, comfy chairs, accessible bathrooms.
- WQ will draft a new editorial re: process + site selection + timeline; "can't have too much transparency."
- CK will present to EDIC on 1/4, in-person at Town Hall; they will vote to approve our feasibility study.
- David Dempsey mentioned idea of reusing brick — as decoration, not as structural component.
- Over the summer, maybe start looking at what isn't included, start trying to put a number on that.
- Good input re: what would "feel like TF": incorporate indigenous history, river ecology, industrial history.
- Multi-use spaces: when we're talking about different dreams, really have to stress multi-purpose design.
- CK: Steve Ellis brought up idea of community room that's dividable, potentially 2 mtgs at once.
- TP: if we need 3 stories, make 3rd story the community space. WQ: up high, windows on 4 sides, big room or easily partitionable. CK: and roof deck.
- MV: have really liked when libs have outdoor space right around them -- Sunderland has little tables, near enough to wifi, tucked into building L, shady. CK: heartened by how many people used our tent. Lunch program in July, they left their chairs, people used them a lot, within wifi. WQ: "if you want to build community, start by building a front porch." CK: a lot of new lib construction incorporates overhangs, shady area, sustainable.
- WQ will draft new FAQ questions for Farren + Senior Ctr topics.

7:00 Items not anticipated — nope

Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — 1/22 6p Zoom

7:01 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Ievins :: Secretary :: Montague Public Libraries Trustees