

- Minutes of the Belmont Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- October 19, 2010
- - The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Vice-Chair Hal Shubin in Town Hall meeting room #4. Present were trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan, and Sarah Phillips, Director Maureen Connors, School Committee Chair Ann Rittenburg, and Frank Kennedy, citizen on the Library Feasibility Committee. Chair Matt Lowrie was absent.
  - A motion by Trustee Carthy, seconded by Trustee Alligood, to support Question #4 on the town ballot passed unanimously.
  - Announcements were made of the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, Making Tough Choices for Belmont's Future, at the Beech Street Center from 1 to 4 p.m. as well as the Belmont Library Foundation's All Cooped Up tour on October 30<sup>th</sup> and a grant workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Director Connors noted that repaving the parking lot had commenced and that the elevator outage of that day was quickly fixed.
  - Vice-Chair Shubin explained at this meeting, which preceded a meeting of the Mega Group, that the agenda for the Mega Group meeting was to determine overall procedure, not to focus on individual projects. Our goal as trustees is to have the importance of the library project recognized. If a site on the north side of Concord Av. is not available, our only option is an addition to the present building. Trustee Carthy reminded the group that the Police Department wishes to relocate in the present library building.
  - School Committee Chair Ann Rittenburg reiterated questions from the School Committee about contact with other town boards, needed input from the architect, the constrained area for a new building, and other concerns such as traffic and safety which necessitate plans from the architect.
  - At 7:25 p.m. the committee recessed to attend the meeting of the Mega Group.
    - Notes from that meeting:
      - -Board of Selectmen Chair Ralph Jones reviewed building projects and identified the high school, the DPW, the Police Dept., and the library as proposed projects. There has been an understanding that the north side of Concord Av. would be used for public buildings. The town has clear title to 90% of the land at the incinerator site.
      - - Permanent Building Committee Chair Pat Bruschi clarified that the MSBA does not have size requirements for school sites as of now.
      - - Selectman Firenze said it was important to move forward and to assume that all problems can be resolved. A high priority should be given to the DPW.
      - -Warrant Committee Chair Liz Allison asked for cost estimates. The response included the DPW at \$22M, high school science wing and hvac/fire alarm system at \$25M, police station at \$13M. With state grant money and private fundraising, the cost of the library to the town was cited at ballpark \$6M. Mr. Jones noted now is a

good time to borrow money. Ms. Allison also stated that the town should choose among reasonable alternatives.

- - Town Treasurer Floyd Carmen stressed the need for a plan in place.
- - The domino effect was noted – the library would make way for the police station.
  - - Selectman Paolillo spoke of investment for the future. With residents looking to the Selectmen for leadership, the plan should be set in place tonight.
  - - Selectman Firenze raised the issue of finding someone to build a skating rink at the incinerator site. Asst. Town Administrator Jeff Conti will investigate a Request for Information regarding this.
- - When it was suggested that the library project was going too fast, Selectman Paolillo reminded the group that the BOS had voted for the library plan and it should begin now. Selectman Firenze said that the land transfer will get solved. Chair Jones urged that what is best for the entire town should occur and hoped the group would work together.
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  - After the Mega Group meeting, the Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Alligood.
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    - Respectfully submitted,
    - Mary E. Keenan, secretary