

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT WORKING GROUP  
MINUTES  
May 19, 2017

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Members Present:

Pat Brusch, Jenny Fallon, Roy Epstein, Phyllis Marshall, Floyd Carman, Anne Marie Mahoney, Mark Paolillo arrived about half way through the meeting.

Also Present:

Peter Struzziero, Library Director; Kathy Keohane, Chair of Library Trustees

Meeting called to order at 8:32 am in Room 4 of Town Hall.

Anne Marie and Pat reviewed the Capital Budget Committee funding recommendations for the library with Director Struzziero and Trustee Keohane.

Struzziero and Keohane reviewed the present situation with both the needed repairs and upgrades for the library as well as the plans for a new building. It was noted that not moving forward with a new building would require \$9.0 million in repairs and upgrades. The trigger for full ADA compliance would be \$1.6 million in repairs. They also reviewed the highlights of a spreadsheet that detailed needed work on the building.

Roy noted that a triage of the list would be in order. Further, since one of the issues was the need for bigger meeting space, the members suggested using the Beech Street Center, the Town Hall Auditorium, the third floor of the Homer Building and the Benton library.

All present discussed the library's request for a Special Town Meeting article on June 7 to establish a building committee or some mechanism to create schematic designs to use for fundraising. Jenny suggested that the Board of Selectmen appoint an Advisory Committee much like what the School Committee did for the high school a number of years ago. Phyllis read from the legal interpretation she obtained from Town Counsel about appointing a building committee for only one phase of a project. No "Building Committee" can be appointed, however, a committee that is a subsidiary of the Permanent Building Committee could be appointed, although funding would still be an issue.

Kathy Keohane noted that \$150,000 would be needed to fund a schematic design that would be sufficient for private fundraising.

Eventually all parties agreed on the following:

- The library would withdraw their request for a Special Town Meeting article to allow the MCPWG to complete their work and deliver a report to Town Meeting in the fall.
- The interim report of the MCPWG on June 5 would note the cooperation of the library in the work of the MCPWG.
- The interim report would be written by Anne Marie, reviewed by the other members, and forwarded to Kathy and Peter prior to June 5.

Peter and Kathy left the meeting and the members continued their discussion of the four capital projects.

The members discussed proceeding with all four projects at different levels of action or effort and on different timelines.

The members made suggestions for generating interest in the MCPWG process and conclusions following the June 5 report. The members suggested delivering the final report to the newspaper and Franklin Tucker's website as well as posting a summary as an insert to the light bills. Roy and others could submit letters to the newspaper and the Belmontonian site as a follow-up. The committee could also give on-going updates to both the Warrant Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

The members unanimously approved the minutes of March 24, 2017; April 7, 2017; April 13, 2017 as amended. Roy and Phyllis abstained from voting on the April 7 minutes. Jenny and Floyd abstained from voting on the April 13 minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Mahoney, Chair