



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2021

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Selectman Nelson and Selectman Pitt were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Kristin Readell, Library Director, members of the 150 Committee and Library Trustees.

Chairman Paight began by stating that the Board of Selectmen's decision as to the site of the library addition is at hand, Selectman Nelson asked for this meeting to ask some questions.

Selectman Nelson asked those in attendance if everyone present was committed to building an addition to the library regardless of location? After some discussion there did not seem to be a clear answer.

Chairman Paight explained that the Board of Selectmen wants to work with the 150 Committee to help seek out additional funding sources. The Board is agreeable to going to Town Meeting for additional funds, if necessary, and does not want to put the entire burden of additional fundraising on the 150 Committee. She also made the point that the Board is not looking to steal the project, they are looking to help and collaborate. There are good things incorporated in the east side plan, if the group can "clear the drama" and make a commitment to collaboration the Board hopes that the end result will be an addition that everyone can be proud of and will serve the people of Marlborough for many years to come.

The "no town money" becomes something to look at again since the site and infrastructure are a town issue and played a major part in the Board's decision.

There needs to be compromise in order for this addition to be built in the best, safest way.

Selectman Pitt asked to go back to the original concept which was derived from the needs assessment. The Board wants to stay true to the concept; what is needed to best serve patrons, additional space.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Hamshaw and Mrs. Ames both noted that the people really want this project built.

Selectman Pitt reiterated that using taxpayer money is not something anyone is enthusiastic about but if we can all work as a coalition, it will make going to Town Meeting easier. As a group we could be very successful. The Board is willing to meet with any of the donors who would like to discuss the decision.

After further discussion Chairman Paight asked if there were any final thoughts. Selectman Nelson noted again that the decision was not made lightly and his original question was raised in an attempt to reach a general consensus. He is hopeful that after the Board's vote everyone can come together to get the addition built.

Selectman Pitt moved that the Board of Selectmen instruct Tow Weller to proceed with the drafting of construction documents and bid specifications for an east side addition to the library, including renovation of the existing library building, in order to go out to bid in January 2022, with final floor plans to be determined in collaboration with the Building Advisory Committee. She further moved that the Board, in collaboration with the 150 Committee, pursue grant opportunities and possible Town funding in the event additional funds are required for this purpose, Chairman Paight seconded the motion and opened it up for discussion. Selectman Nelson noted that a decision had to be made and consensus was important. Chairman Paight recommended a joint statement to all donors and the public could help explain the decision. She noted that misinformation is a problem. Noting that there was no more discussion, vote was called for and motion passed unanimously.

Those in attendance for the library discussion left the meeting.

Jeanine Lescarbeau joined the meeting to discuss matters involving severe erosion of her property on McKinley Circle as a result of the July storms, and shared that she received notice that the erosion has compromised the safety of the structure and should not be occupied.

The Board shared final thoughts about the library addition.

Selectman Nelson moved and Chairman Paight seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 pm, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator