

## **DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

TRUSTEE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 14, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING

UNAPPROVED

**Present:** Karla Karstens, Diane Downer, Charity Clark, Steve Perkins, Shari Westman, Barbara Mieder; Librarian: Jane Kearns; Guests: John Hemmelgarn and Heather Mooney, Black River Design; and Erik Wells, Town Manager

**Absent:** Brian Goodwin

**Scoping Study Steering Committee Report:** Karla reported that at the last Scoping Committee meeting on August 10 there was a presentation by Black River Designs in which they presented some ideas of how the results of the Space Survey could look in an actual building. They showed a stand-alone vision of a new library and a similar stand-alone vision of a Recreation/Community space. Having done that, it seems that the next critical step in the scoping study is to decide on the particular plan the trustees want to pursue for a potential renovation/expansion of the existing library.

**Review and Discuss Library Expansion Options:** John presented the 7 different options again to familiarize the Trustees with those possibilities. Some were one story and two involved a two-story addition. He also presented the options for additional parking.

The Trustees discussed the different options for parking, including the impact it would have on the Town Green, and quickly agreed that the option with a parking lot on currently unused space near the sidewalk was the best. This option would provide a good traffic flow, close access to the library, and would not block the view of the Bandstand. One question that was unclear was where the entrance to the library should be. Though that will be a consideration with the design of the renovation/expansion.

Next the Trustees looked at the expansion plans and easily agreed on the choice of a two-story addition that would connect to the library and keep the patio space available in some way.

Once those decisions had been made, John presented the Trustees with the plans for a combined Recreation/Community/Library Space with a common Atrium gathering space so the Trustees could see how that plan might look. This was the first time the Trustees had seen this idea and there was a lot of discussion about the pros and cons of one combined space or having the library in its current space and a Recreation/Community Space at a different site. The discussion leaned towards having the library remain at its current location for a number of reasons, but the Trustees were willing to consider a combined building if the site was a good space.

The next step is for Black River Design to come up with more detailed plans for a renovation/expansion of the library, based on the choices that were made at the

meeting. Black River will be presenting that idea at the next Scoping Study Steering Committee meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Next meeting:** September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.