

Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2016

Opening

The meeting of the Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 am on April 6, 2016 at the Town Office by Jan Rosenbaum.

*Note: the AHPLC meetings which occur at the Opera House venue will be televised and recorded using Rockport Live Stream, accessed via the town office link:

<http://livestream.com/Rockportmaine>

Present

Voting Members: Ann Filley; Jan Rosenbaum; Tracy Murphy; Joe Sternowski; Heather Mackey, Erik Frederick; Eric Denny and Stephanie Kumble; ex-officio, Library Director, Ben Blackmon.

Absent: None

Guests: Reed & Co. architects' Dick Reed and Cynthia Lobenstein; John Scholz, professional advisor; Town Manager, Richard Bates; members of the public.

Minutes of 03/23/2016, accepted with one change

Announcement: The warrant article that will appear on the June ballot appears to be less of an issue, now that the current Limerock Street site is the one that is being utilized for planning purposes. The referendum question was signed prior to the building engineering study, so that the poor condition of the building was an unknown to the public.

Additional discussion on the RES site acknowledges that it is a very large site and the potential for a myriad of purposes important to the future of Rockport.

The Public Contact sub-committee is continuing to work on press releases on updated information for the website and handouts. One question that needs to be addressed more fully is the "Why not renovate" question that argues against building new. The sub-committee will focus on the costs, as well as the recommendations of the engineering study. So many areas need to be corrected to make the building habitable, and all the different additions that have created a situation where the expense does not justify the ends.

Conversation with Reed & Co.

Members of the AHLPC introduced themselves and verbally provided areas of importance on the proposed building/site sketch. Some of these were the importance of the outside areas, being a champion of the green space, lighting, parking, traffic concerns. Interior building discussions ran from where staff areas should be to control the access points, flexibility of spaces, to the costs of a three story building.

For the next meeting it was determined that now the process has moved into more concrete planning that it is important to provide good guidance to the architects. The AHLPC will need to respect the original charge of the Select Board and define what decisions need to be made prior to the next meeting with Reed & Co.

Public comment: One member of the public stated that “I supported renovating the current building until I helped the library move in December. Handling the children's books for 2 days in the building caused me to have a severe asthma reaction which I believe was caused by mold in the building and books.”

No other comments had been received via the email, libraryplanning@town.rockport.me.us.

AHLPC Meeting schedule

- Meeting schedule
 - 04/20/2016 11:00 am Town Office
 - 04/27/2016 11:00 am Opera House

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am by Jan Rosenbaum. The next meeting will be at 11:00 am on April 20, 2016, Richardson Room, Town Office.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Filley

Approved by: AHLPC members on 04/20/16