

Old Library Accessibility Committee
Meeting Minutes October 18, 2018
Upper Town Hall – Volunteers Meeting Room
13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA

Members Present: Wendy Cote-Magan, Chris Cutler, Pete Jackson, Mark Mikitarian, Lucy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM by Chair Lucy Wallace.

Preparation for Special Town Meeting

Lucy opened the discussion reporting that Alice Von Loesecke would be making the motion on our article, but that she would speak to it. Lucy reminded the Committee that the same process was used at last November's Special Town Meeting (STM) and felt having Alice, who is the Select Board's liaison to CPIC, would speak to CPIC support of the article. Mark Mikitarian asked if the Selectmen supported the article; Lucy told him they had so agreed at their meeting on Tuesday night.

There followed a general discussion on points to make at the STM. Pete Jackson noted that the 2011 Municipal Building Committee's (MBC) report to the Selectmen recommended the Old Library be repurposed as a community cultural center. This was in keeping with the vision of the Town's several master plans to assure that the Town Center remain the institutional, cultural, and civic heart of the Town. Mark noted that, contrary to reported suggestions by Finance Committee, there would be no economies of scale gained by combining the current project with a future roof replacement project. Other points raised included:

- Delays in the Town Hall project resulted in higher costs
- Proceeding with this project would increase the Town's ability to get a second grant from the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund to help fund the roof replacement
- The Town was only eligible for the MCFE grant for the current project because of the current tenant, the Harvard Cultural Collaborative
- Work funded by the MCFE grant must commence by 2020
- The variance granted over a year ago by the MA Architectural Access Board to use the back door for a handicap entrance was temporary (for 3 years) and based on our proceeding with the front door restoration and accessibility project
- Project has been scaled back to bare minimum (no bells and whistles); Garden Club will be helping with plant removal and landscaping
- Construction costs not likely to go down in the spring and more likely to go up, especially when this small project is competing with larger public projects
- We have a known project in hand and ready to go; timing and cost for roof replacement is not known
- We have no funds for architectural services to "go back to the drawing board"

Speakers and topics were assigned as follows:

- Lucy: opening remarks to cover scope of project; public and official support of current use
- Chris: if needed, speak to bids being higher than estimate
- Mark: if needed, speak to HCC's contributions to project funding
- Wendy: if needed, speak to Add Alternate
- Pete/Chris: if needed, speak to construction costs, public project costs
- Wendy will ask Ben Guthro to speak (as ex Historical Commission chair) in support of article

Administrative

The invoice from Abacus in the amount of \$9,090 was approved for payment.

The minutes of the September 13, 2018 meeting were approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.