

Meeting of the Jones Library Board of Trustees

Amherst Middle School

June 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Patricia Holland, Sarah McKee, Carol Gray, Louis Greenbaum, Kathy Wang.

Also Present: Bonnie Isman, Library Director; John Musante, Finance Director; Public.

This is a joint meeting with the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) who are present with Peter Jessup presiding. Louis Greenbaum is also here in his capacity as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The discussion centered on the Library's request for CPA funds for the restoration and repainting of rotting wood window frames on the historic portion of the Jones Library.

Patricia Holland and Carol Gray made presentations speaking for the Jones Library.

David Ziomek, Conservation Director, had spoken with Jonathan Tucker (who could not attend). The Town had received a letter from Town Counsel about one half hour ago. Carol Gray had received email from Jim Wald – provisionally, eligible for CPAC; no supplanting. Gerry Weiss, Select Board, has spoken with Circuit Rider for Historical Commission and Kathy Roth - they had no problem.

Kay Moran spoke of the Finance Committee's recommendation. She said the Finance Committee had made their recommendation for the Library's operating budget only after they were fairly sure that the Library would qualify for a waiver. She had received an email from MBLC with this information, including statistics on waivers since 1994. She has no problem with this project.

Gerry Weiss (Select Board) is in conversations with Jim Wald and Jonathan Tucker. He said, 'There is a policy issue here.' Their feeling is that Preservation Act is there. The Select Board and H/L Com will hold a hearing on this during this summer.

Peter Jessup in summing up said the Library could live with \$20,000 but would probably like \$30,000. Shall we recommend this to Town Meeting? We'd like to have a reserve, but is no requirement to have it. Also, this did not come recommended by the H/L Committee, but that's not a requirement. Also, this is significantly far out of the timeline. We want to keep the process as clean as we can and take an approach that works for everyone.

Mary Streeter said some people might not want to use CPA funds for the operating budget, but she has no problem with this project. She suggested the Library tighten up policies and its timeline.

After questioning, Director Bonnie Isman told the group that the whole Library was last painted in 1998. She continued, saying, 'We get intermittent leaks in the metal roof in new part of the building, plus

some chronic leaks in the slate roof when there are ice dams. The Library has a plan to handle the roof issues.

Peter Jessup shares Vince O'Connor's concern about not having funds if the Town can get property for affordable housing. 'Legality and supplanting aren't the issues,' he said, ' if we recommend it to Town Meeting, I would not have a problem with asking Town Meeting to put money for the cemetery tomb project into the Library project.'

Denise Barberet has concern regarding the use of reserves. Would we get rid of the historic literary signs (Literary Writers' Walk) project for now? We could use the money for the Library. Mary Streeter agreed.

Kathy Wang arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Louis Greenbaum stated, 'But we need Town money.' Vince O'Connor recommends and moves that at summer Town Meeting, because the Library needs some of this work right now, that Town Meeting rescind its approval of the historic sign project and instead appropriate \$30,000 for exterior repair of windows in the historic portion of the Jones Library. Louis Greenbaum said, 'The only thing that will solve the problem for the Library is to get money from capital budget.'

Mary Streeter asked why couldn't the funds be withdrawn from JCPC ? Louis Greenbaum said, 'There's precedent for this , it was done for schools. It's possible to take money out of the capital budget and use it for operating expenses.'

Chris Hoffman arrived 6:55 p.m.

Vote on O'Connor's motion: Aye: 5; Nay 1 (Greenbaum)

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McKee