

**North Hampton Public Library
Board of Trustees**

**Regular Meeting
9 January 2019, 6:30 pm
North Hampton Town Hall**

Chair: Jacqueline Brandt
Secretary: Susan Leonardi
Treasurer: Judy Day
Library Director: Susan Grant
Alternate: Margaret Delano

The intent of these minutes is to provide a summary of the essential meeting content and not a transcription.

1. Call to order 6:35pm. Present: Jacqui Brandt, Susan Leonardi; Trustees, Margaret Delano; Alternate and Susan Grant; Library Director
2. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 12th. Motion made by Jacqui Brandt to approve the minutes. Seconded by Susan Leonardi. All agreed.
3. Library Director's Report
 - a. Susan Grant reported that she and Connie are designing a preteen space with books, study carrel and some devices in the corner of the library opposite the Children's Area. They are also exploring into ways to buffer sounds.
 - b. The Library received a \$1000 check from the Fuller Foundation and \$5000 check from NH Charitable Foundation. It will use some of this money for the preteen space.
 - c. Circulation stats were down for materials but attendance was up in December. Museum pass usage doubled. Susan Grant noted that many passes went out for the popular Candlelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke.
 - d. Upcoming Library programs include:
 - i. Another program on using Apple devices scheduled for January.
 - ii. The tech fair is rescheduled for February 23rd due to the change in the date of Winterfest.
 - iii. Walking France is scheduled for Jan 29 th at 6 pm, with a snow date of Feb 5th . Gale Carey walked the Chemin de St. Jacques pilgrimage, a 500 mile trek and will share her experience along with some French food.
 - iv. For Black History Month TJ Wheeler will be performing at the library February 9th . He's a Jazz, Blues musician and educator.

- v. March 2nd at 11 a.m. the library will be having a workshop on creating mixed media art with Rebecca Killeen-Brown. There will be a \$10 fee and it will be limited to 10 participants.
 - vi. Looking further ahead in May. Susan Grant said there will be a Harmonica workshop for kids. Harmonica's can be purchased at a discounted price.
 - e. Youth Librarian Report
 - i. A new Winnacunnet Teens Group has been created and Connie is working with the area libraries for programming.
 - ii. The popular Opus Scopus now has 3 different groups with a maximum of 8 kids after school. Limited the number will help them get the most out of the this program.
 - iii. Connie is also working on a Youth News monthly eblast to be distributed.
 - f. Treasurer's Report. All reports are good. The library is halfway through the budget year and we are at about 47% of the budget.
4. New Business
- 1. Vote to support building library on 216 Atlantic Ave or continue moving forward with addition/renovation plan.
 - 2. Public Comment.
 - i. Larry Miller stated to the Board that the question is to build old or build new. In his opinion, the lot is too small. 216 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton is available and the library should take advantage of the opportunity.
 - ii. Paul Marquis questioned the condition of 216 Atlantic Avenue and if information about the lot, paving, commercial use, legal use has been obtained by the Board. Questions were asked if the Board has done their due diligence and what opinion did Ron Lamarree have about the property. Jacqui noted that she did speak with Ron. He said because of grading a new library building on 216 Atlantic Avenue would need a retaining wall and a two-story building because of grading and wetlands. The library has received an estimated cost from Ron and BPS. It is significantly more around \$1Million more. Larry Miller stated that there is no lean on the property, a dispute was settled in 2008, the Select Board obtained a septic & home inspection, and the asphalt is estimated to have been there since WW1.
 - iii. Marge Schreier, part time employee and retired professional librarian was concerned about renovation/expansion and now comfortable with the idea. As a taxpayer, the costs to build are less. She stated that fundraisers said that \$1Million could be raised. Marge also noted that at the Budget meeting, individuals are not aware of what has been done, and she is

hopeful by March that citizens will know what the library is doing. The work that has been done so far. She encouraged the Trustees to inform the public, continue developing the plan and get something published in the Hampton Union. So much has been done already, the Library Board needs to share it with the town.

3. Susan Leonardi requested that Library Director Susan Grant speak for the library and library staff. She read the following letter to the Board of Trustees:

I have been library director for 10 years and a library staff member for 15 years now. We have staff members who have 28 years, 18, and 8 years invested in the library. I am speaking for all of us who work at the library.

First a little background from my perspective. The library trustees did not make an offer on the property across the street a year ago, they made an inquiry. I was there when Ron Lamarre walked the property and his opinion was that it was unsuitable for a new library. Ron has no interest in where we build, but when asked his opinion, will give us his best professional advice as an architect who has worked on many library projects and who is currently working with libraries such as Greenland with their expansion project.

A new library on a piece of property that taxpayers will have to pay for will cost significantly more than the current renovation/expansion project. Last year the trustees voted to begin the expansion/renovation project and plans have been drawn up and we had several listening sessions with the public. A construction firm was hired and the project costs have been submitted. Over \$20,000 in architectural fees have been spent to get to this point, not to mention a total of over \$80,000 spent the past 19 years on library building project costs that have gotten us nowhere. The reason the trustees voted to renovate and expand the current library was because doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result quite frankly is the definition of insanity, not to mention that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. This plan is at a critical point, and not moving forward quite frankly, to me would be reckless with the taxpayer's money. The additional money that would have to be raised, the cost of starting over, again with new drawings and the increased cost of a new building as opposed to repurposing the existing building and adding on does not benefit the library or the town, especially with the property tax increases. It seems irresponsible to me to abandon current plans that have no real obstacles, other than the distraction of starting over somewhere else.

If the town wants to repurpose the library, then repurpose the library for the library and put a smaller town office building on the homestead. We will have all town services in one spot, with safety buildings on the other side, and nobody has to cross the street, which actually is a major issue.

We have a plan and are ready to move forward quickly, a plan that will provide the meeting rooms, library program rooms, quiet study areas, and more, that will double the size of the current library and completely transform the original space to blend with the new construction—at a lower cost than a new library on a piece of land that will have to be acquired with taxpayer money.

Having said that we will continue to provide the best library services possible in any building or setting. But library staff and I are not in favor of building a new library across the street.

4. Larry Miller requested the correspondence the trustees received from Susan Grant on or about 13 December 2018. Jacqui Brandt will follow up this request.
5. Susan Leonardi stated that she agreed with many of Director Susan Grant's points. Building new is more expensive, she believes the Board worked together to develop the library addition and renovation plan. There was a lot of time and expense involved and the Library Board should move forward with the plan they have.
6. Library Alternate Margaret Delano stated that the idea of a new location, building new was inspiring. The timing of the property is a gift. She believes that donors and fundraising people can get on board with what could be built across the street. It would allow for more space for the other town areas like the police dept, town offices and open space on the Homestead. She did note that the expansion provides some benefits, but stated the library should consider the opportunity and take advantage of it.
 - a. Public comment from Paul Marquis, Hobbs Road. He stated that the library has been working since 1997, but no one has ever presented an unencumbered plan to the voters –the complex, the campus, included the library, but never has a plan been presented to the town with just at library proposal. Let the owners of the town vote on this.
 - b. Rick Stanton noted that as a member of the budget committee they are uninformed of the library's addition and renovation plans. The Library's warrant article failed 4 to 5 because of the lack of information. The Trustees must be more informative.

7. Jacqui shared that this was a difficult decision. She wanted to take into account Ron's expertise and acknowledges that others have contributed to the discussion by bringing up the past. She also wants something new, bright and shiny. She realizes that there has much divisiveness in the town. More challenges are head for the library in selling at the expansion plan, and she acknowledges the 2 years and investment made on the existing plan. Motion made by Susan Leonardi to move forward with the Addition and Renovation plan. Seconded by Jacqui. Vote passes 2-1.

8. NHMA; electronic communications best practices. Susan Leonardi called NHMA about the RSA (Right to know) and spoke with Steve Buckley. He encourages us to set rules on how to communicate electronically as a Board. We do not violate when we send emails out with agenda items or statements, we actually violate the rules when there is a response or comment sent back to the entire board. A few points from Steve: Only communicate one-way and minimize electronic communication. Blind carbon copy always that way no one can reply all. Agenda items are only sent to the chair, the chair has the authority to decide which items go on the agenda. On only rare occasions, documents are sent to the entire board with general suggestions ie please review minutes, no discussion electronically allowed afterward.

9. Library Website: adding information like drawings, renderings, library timeline. Susan Leonardi requested that Barbara create a tab on the library website to and upload and share addition/renovation documents, drawings and information with the public..

10. Trustees community communications; 2018 annual report narrative, Winter community newsletter 25th. In addition to the library website information, the Board must share communications with the community. Despite the deadline, the Annual Report should be submitted to Jan. It is a narrative of the work the Trustees have done all year and contains factual information. Susan Leonardi shared a write up and encouraged Jacqui Brandt to add the addition information about 216 Atlantic Ave and plan presented at the end of 2018. Susan Grant also noted that there was still time to submit to the Community Newsletter for winter.

11. Foundation news - Wolfeboro's John Sandeen & NHPLcc MOU. Susan Leonardi spoke to John Sandeen about Wolfeboro's Foundation. He shared that the Chair of the Board, a member of the Friends group and Library Director sit work with the Foundation Board. He is happy to speak to us about their experiences, but requests that it is over a conference call. Susan Leonardi will looking scheduling this in the future. NHPLCC MOU tabled until next meeting.

12. Request to move next work session to 1/30. Susan Leonardi has requested that the next work session be moved to January 30th.

13. Correspondence

14. Public Comment – Cynthia Swank the Friends will meet next Wednesday, January at 9:00am in the morning. The annual appeal was successful. This year they have posted the a list name of people that have donated in memory of on the flyers. Names are posted in the library by the computers. The Friends will have a Community Oven Fundraiser on Monday, March 4th. They are also sponsoring the Tech Fair and Jazz Program. Susan Leonardi asked if Jacqui was available next week. She would like the Board to get together with the Friends. Cynthia has had a long standing relationship with the town per her CIP hat, she encourages everyone who votes to visit the town website and read the current CIP attachment A.

15. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm. Next work session will be January 30th.