

**MINUTES**  
**Library Reuse Committee**  
*September 14, 2023 7 PM*

The meeting of the Library Reuse Committee was called to order at the Community Center in Conference Room 26 at 7 PM by Judy Crosby, acting as interim chair at the request of Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, until the committee is able to vote leadership.

*Members Present*

Judy Crosby (Interim Chair)  
Matthew Baldassari  
Emunah Homa  
Gail Ader  
Mridula Satyamurti  
Roni Thaler  
Jim Popkin

*Members Absent*

None

*Others Present*

David Martin (member of the Historical Commission)

**Introduction**

Each member provided a brief introduction to the other members.

**Review and discuss charge, mission, existing conditions report and former study report**

The charge was discussed, including reading the charge aloud and confirming the charge does not ask the committee to determine highest and best use for the building. Each member shared one goal for the committee. Goals included, in no specific order:

- Ensure that any future use provides a financial benefit for the town;
- Make any future use vibrant and ensure as many people have access to the building as possible;
- Ensure the rehabilitation takes place in a timely manner following the library vacating the space so the building does not become a drain on the town;
- Find a use that is appropriate for the building;
- Have a developer (not the town) incur the costs of rehabilitating and operating the building;
- Meet the November, 2024 deadline set forth in the charge for delivery of a report with the committee's recommendation to the Select Board; and
- Consider using the building as a cultural center.

Questions that were raised during this discussion are whether Sharon needs additional community space, and how to define a cultural center. There was a consensus that one of the early steps the committee should take is to conduct a survey of townspeople on various potential uses.

Judy Crosby agreed to follow up with Fred Turkington regarding the possibility of having the Property Condition Assessment, Energy Audit and Future Use Study of the library that was completed in 6/2020 updated to some degree. Roni Thaler agreed to follow up with Fred Turkington regarding community space in town, and a possible survey related to same.

### **Committee organization**

**MOTION:** To elect Matt Baldassari as Chair (motion made by Jim Popkin, seconded by Judy Crosby)  
**VOTED:** 7\*-0-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To elect Judy Crosby as Vice Chair (motion made by Jim Popkin, seconded by Emunah Homa\*)  
**VOTED:** 7\*-0-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To elect Gail Ader as Clerk (motion made by Judy Crosby, seconded by Roni Thaler)  
**VOTED:** 7\*-0-0 **PASSES**

**MOTION:** To ask the Historical Commission to designate a liaison to the Library Reuse Committee (motion made by Judy Crosby, seconded by Emunah Homa\*)  
**VOTED:** 7\*-0-0 **PASSES**

### **Discuss and confirm future meeting schedule**

Next meeting is planned to be in person at 7 PM on 9/28/2023. Matt to follow up regarding reserving a room for the meeting and ensuring SharonTV is able to tape (with a preference for being able to use the OWL to facilitate hybrid public participation).

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm (motion made by Roni Thaler, seconded by Jim Popkin)  
**VOTED:** 7\*-0-0 **PASSES**

- Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that Emunah Homa had not been sworn in by the town clerk prior to the meeting. Accordingly, the vote regarding appointing a vice chair and asking the Historical Commission to designate a liaison to the Library Reuse Committee will be redone at the next meeting of the Library Reuse Committee, and every other vote taken at the meeting and noted above should be treated as passing 6-0-0 instead of 7-0-0.