

MINUTES
Library Reuse Committee (LRC)
10/19/2023

The meeting of the Library Reuse Committee called to order at 7 pm in the Hearing Room of the Sharon Community Center.

Members Present: Judy Crosby, Mridula Satyamurti, Roni Thaler, Joel Fishman, Michael Fillion

Others present: David Martin, Sharon Historical Commission

Agenda item 1: Introduction of new members

Judy introduced new committee members Joel Fishman and Michael Fillion.

Agenda item 2: Leadership

MOTION: Mridula moved to nominate herself as Chair, Judy seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor. Gail Ader was nominated as Clerk at the September meeting.

Agenda item 3: Review of Open Meeting Law

Judy reviewed Open Meeting Law (OML) and addressed committee members questions, clarifying that discussing library reuse with persons who are members of LRC does not violate OML. However, no more than three LRC members can meet outside of LRC meetings to discuss library reuse and such discussions cannot be shared with additional LRC members as this would constitute a quorum. Judy further specified that while more than 3 committee members can meet outside of LRC meeting for other purpose, such as social events, no business regarding the library reuse or the charge of the committee could be discussed because this would constitute a quorum (presence of 4 or more committee members).

Regarding emails, Judy reviewed with the committee that group LRC email communications is allowed for the purposes of setting up meetings but nothing of substance regarding the library reuse is to be discussed in a group email as that violates OML.

Judy informed the members that all written communications generated by the work of the LRC inclusive of emails, agendas and minutes, are available for public viewing per the provisions of the OML

Agenda item 4: Approval of minutes of September 1 meeting

MOTION: Judy moved to approve the September minutes; Roni seconded. Gail and Mridula voted in favor; Joel and Michael abstained as they were not present at the September meeting.

Agenda item 5: Re-vote request for Liaison from Sharon Historic Commission

MOTION: Judy moved that the Sharon Historical Commission appoint a representative to the LRC. Joel seconded and all voted in favor. David Martin and Jim Grasfield will share this role.

Agenda item 6: Schedule Join Meeting with Select Board

The Select Board has requested a joint meeting with LRC to review the charge. LRC members agreed on the evening of 11/01. Judy will follow up to confirm with Select Board.

Agenda item 7: Updates from Roni Thaler, available space survey

Roni reached out to the following sites and shared that:

- The new library will have a community room, a “maker space” for arts & crafts and other activities which will be determined at a later date as reported by librarian to LeeAnne Amend; a technology room and a study room.
- The Gordon Gladstone Public Safety room in the town’s public safety building has a training room but is rarely used for other purposes as it has poor Zoom capability.
- The town’s Adult Center can hold 50+ people and is regularly used for activities such as knitting, cards, yoga, etc.
- The town’s Community Center is used frequently for evening meetings by town committees, sports organizations and other uses.

Judy would like to know if the Community Center is used as frequently during day time hours.

Michael asked if the LRC could obtain a PDF copy of the plans for the new library to better assess its spaces for community use.

Agenda item 8: Update from Judy Crosby re: existing conditions

Judy shared a paper copy of the Library Reuse Report from 2020 and shared that Fred Turkington stated that he does not think the existing conditions of the building have changed very much since the 2020 report. However he feels that the report’s proposals for future use of the building need updating as market conditions have changed greatly since the issuance of the 2020 report.

Dave said that the Sharon Historic Commission (SHC) has say on any changes to the existing building, inclusive of the additions. The general sense among the SHC is that the additions detract from many of the building’s historic features.

Joel shared that the additions to the Carnegie Building were allowed with a conditional variance and that it is a non conforming lot. Due to the complicated zoning history of the building, Joel advised that the LRC may need to seek guidance from the town’s zoning and/or planning departments or town counsel.

Roni asked about the possibility of additional floors being added to the back of the building, over the new additions. This idea had been rejected by the SHC when the library board was considering expanding the current library. Judy stated that additional floors can only be added to historic buildings if they are not visible from the ground level (an example of this being the Wilbur building).

Judy recommended that the LRC tour the building with Matthew Grosshandler who served on the original LRC in 2020. Judy will follow up with Matt to schedule an appointment.

Agenda item 9: Topics not anticipated at time of posting

There was clear interest among members to discuss future uses of the building and exploring town vs private developer investment, so Judy recommended we add this to the next LRC meeting agenda. Judy will prepare an overview of how tax credits work for historic buildings.

Agenda item 10: Adjourn

At 8: 20 pm, Mridula moved to adjourn, Roni seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Ader, Clerk
10/20/2023