

WATERVILLE VALLEY, NH
MINUTES of BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSHOP SESSION with LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: June 25, 2019

SELECTMEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Aronson, Vice-Chair Margaret Turner, Rich Rita

LIBRARY TRUSTEES PRESENT: Monique Lowd, Sandy Larsen, and Cheryl Moak

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rob Wilson (WV Historical Society), Mark Decoteau and Sharon Charron.

1. Call to Order

Mike Aronson calls the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. Discussion with the Library Trustees

Mike Aronson states the reason for the meeting is to find out what the objections are for placing a Historical Society building on the same lot as the Library and to see if a compromise, or an agreement, can be reached with the Library Trustees. The Selectmen have heard the Trustees have a strong opposition to the idea and want to hear the reasons from the Trustees directly.

Rob Wilson, President of the WV Historical Society (WVHS), provided background on the WVHS. They have submitted applications to become a 501-C3 non-profit organization, and will be privately funded. WVHS was formed in spring of 2018 and currently has 60 members. Their objective is to preserve the historical objects of WV and to keep these objects in environmentally protected areas that are accessible for people to view in an appropriate setting. The creation of a museum building is part of this objective and WVHS views the north end of town for being the best location. This is where the oldest buildings in town exist, with the Library being one of those buildings. Funding for the building would come from the WVHS fundraising efforts.

Concern was expressed by the Library Trustees that a structural addition, or a connection via an annex to the Library, would compromise the historical classification and value of the Library building. Discussion followed and involved numerous ideas and uses for a museum with historical exhibits and attractions. Dartmouth College is currently storing materials and there are others here in the town offices as well as held in private collections locally. The building would be small, perhaps no larger than 20'x20', and would be climate controlled to ensure the proper storage environment for historical items. In conclusion the Library Trustees had no objection to the construction of a building which is unconnected to preserve the historical nature of the Library building on the same lot as the Library.

3. Adjourn

Mike Aronson motions to adjourn the meeting.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 10:21am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town of Waterville Valley