

Barrington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees -Special Meeting Minutes APPROVED
June 9, 2021

Lindsey Maziarz, as Chair of the Barrington Public Library Trustees, declared that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Trustees as a public body are authorized to meet electronically. Trustees in attendance, Library Director, and 4 guests participated remotely through zoom, and all motions were voted on by a roll call vote.

Present: Trustees: Lindsey Maziarz, Leigh Elliott, Susan Frankel, Karolina Bodner, Lydia Cupp, Karen Towne, and Robert Drew. Melissa Huetter (Library Director), and Foundation members, Marie Harris, Roger Gingrich, and Susan Gaudiello, and Library Friends member, John Cafasso.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The BPL Board of Trustees had voted to postpone the new library building project in March 2021 due to the budgetary constraints resulting from the COVID 19 Pandemic.

During the May 3 special meeting, the following options were considered:

>Continue with the proposed new building design for the March 2022 Town elections.

>Pause this design for another year or more.

>Revisit the SMP design to renovate the present Library with an addition to increase space.

A decision was made for Trustees Lindsey and Susan to present these options to the Library staff, the Foundation Leadership Team, and the Friends to receive their input and ideas.

Discussions included how to best meet the needs for more space and maintain and increase the donor base while acknowledging the reality of Pandemic budgetary constraints.

Today's special meeting was called to review input from those discussions, to vote on the Project direction, and to discuss the next steps to be taken.

Public comment was received via Chat, read aloud by Trustee chair Lindsey, and were responded to during the discussion where relevant.

The BPL staff indicated a preference for a new space rather than an addition, and want to be more involved in the process and decisions made going forward. They reiterated the need for more space and expressed frustration with the number of times they must say no to patron requests due to these limitations. They would like to be able to say yes to all community requests.

*Due to the current site restrictions, it would not be possible to add on to the library in the future beyond the proposed addition. A new building on another location would allow the possibility of future expansion as was done with the middle school..

*Roger noted that some of the available grants would only apply to a new building and not an addition.

*Marie expressed appreciation for the continued dedication of SMP architects as the building project works to meet the changing community needs and increasing costs of materials. The Foundation expressed the need for regular communication with the public through

newsletters which would include input from all involved (staff, Foundation, Friends and Trustees). It was suggested that communications include more information about the services provided by the library and the many ways it serves the community, as well as the activities not possible due to space restrictions.

After taking all input and discussions into consideration, the Trustees decided to vote on the Project direction.

*Susan made a motion to propose a new library building smaller than the previous design. Robert seconded the motion and it passed on a roll call vote.

*Susan made a motion to propose a bond for the newly designed building for the March 2023 election. Robert seconded the motion and it passed by a roll call vote.

Next steps:

Trustees, BPL staff, Foundation, and Friends will work together to provide regular communication to the public to include:

- *information about the current services the library provides to the community.
- *activities the library would like to provide with more available space.
- *fundraising activities and donor information.
- *SMP design of a smaller new building which can accommodate future expansion.

Robert made a motion to adjourn at 8:30. It was seconded by Susan and passed by a roll call vote.

**Next meeting Tuesday, June 15, 2021
in person at the Barrington Public Library**