

Stowell Library Trustee Meeting

(as members of the Library Exploratory Committee representing a quorum of Library Trustees))

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

10:00 am

At the Stowell Library

People present -

LEC members: Laura Cousineau (library trustee), Kathi Patterson (library trustee), Heidi Jaarsma
Caroline Storrs, Larry Dingee

Library Consultant: Tom Ladd

Citizens: Stephanie McAndrew (librarian), Sandy Guest, Judith Kaufman, Bill Gallagher, Lois Fitts

1. Meeting began at about 10:00 am
2. Background Information - Heidi had invited Tom Ladd, a Library Consultant from Whitefield, NH, to meet with members of the Library Exploratory Committee at the Stowell Library building. His charge was to provide a report that would include the following:
 - a. An analysis of the interior layout of the existing building in relation to accessibility and in consideration of our goal that library services will be accessible to all. This analysis would be regardless of what ADA requirements would or would not be triggered by a renovation,
 - b. An outline of what changes would be required by the ADA if we renovated the building,
 - c. What changes beyond any such requirements would he recommend to improve accessibility,
 - d. His recommendations concerning the general interior as to whether or not our current configuration is the best use of the available space,
 - e. What we should prioritize for additional space as part of a proposed renovation?

Heidi stated that she felt it was 50/50 whether the town wants a new library. She also felt we need to give the voters as much information as possible. We need to know what needs to happen to make this building accessible as a library.

Laura wanted to know if any renovations would trigger ADA compliance

Questions were raised and statements made:

- Is there something we can be changed in this configuration to remove the barriers,
- The goal is to get there,
- The elephant in the room is the new building,
- We have been improvising in good ways,

- What is the best way to meet the needs of the community,
- We will need to explore the operating and staffing costs for renovating the space,
- People want a bigger collection (Judith Kaufman),
- We need to try surveys to learn what people want and what things might be done,
- We need to be careful with the questions (Tom Ladd),
- People don't know what they can have because they haven't had it in the current library (Sandy Guest).

Most people had left by 12:00 noon. Kathi and Heidi stayed until Tom was finished with his measurements and pictures. He will be sending Heidi his report and some questions to use for an electronic survey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Patterson
Stowell Library Trustee