

South Thomaston Library and Community Center Planning / Fundraising Committee

Minutes:
November 3, 2021

Present: Moira Paddock, Anne Just, Maureen Spencer, Marcia Turner, Candace Smith, Gabe Tomasulo, Sandy Weisman
Pennie Alley, ex-officio, non-voting; absent: none

Public: Erv Curtis, Catherine Bendheim

The meeting began at 6:05 pm at the South Thomaston Library. The committee agreed that we will try to rotate the minute-taking job through the committee.

We began with each member introducing themselves by way of their interests, experience and skills related to this project. We are a diverse, highly experienced group, including:

- Educational training and work
- Alternative energy knowledge
- Architectural and building knowledge
- Fundraising and project management experience
- Library directorship experience
- Library and community center programming
- Group process knowledge
- Interest in South Thomaston and its history and future
- And a psychologist

The Mission Statement was reviewed by the committee so everyone was on the same page and be clear what the committee was designated to work on, that is, working to plan, design, fundraise for a new library and community center. S Weisman encouraged everyone to read the final report of the Gilford Butler School Futures Committee, and distributed the Final Report of John Hansen, architect, about the GBS.

G Tomasulo suggested that we devote a good bit of next meeting to the building priorities, including dedicated spaces within a new building, including what is needed for current programming and library functions, as well as what is desired for the future uses. He also stressed that architectural schematics will be required for fundraising purposes.

G Tomasulo further talked about the design process, and suggested that we look at how to bring the community into the design phase, including identifying space, programming needs and desires, and how and when to present the information to the community.

A Just suggested the committee needs to be very clear about our mission statement. M Paddock suggested that the committee should survey South Thomaston residents about what needs the proposed community center / library would provide. The committee also discussed ways of communicating with the larger community including Terri Baines' town email list, any town newsletters. Other ideas to come.

S Weisman presented a typical fundraising method, including preparation of a Case Statement, building schematics to present to the town, developing a 501c3 to receive major gifts. Then developing a ladder of gift giving including a method for going to donors able to give larger amounts of money, requesting smaller amounts through requests, fundraising events and opportunities, and in-kind donations. Grant writing will need to be researched and developed for building costs, programming, sustainable energy, operating costs.

E Curtis spoke to the importance of the community center, and suggested that since it was a high priority, it needn't be built in the location of the former Butler school.

C Bendheim suggested that a presentation by Liz Jenkins from the AIO Food pantry would be willing to give a presentation about their very successful fundraising campaign for the new Rockland building.

M Paddock, A Just, and S Weisman will work on an outline for a survey to understand what needs the new community center / library would provide. G Tomasulo will begin to research some granting foundations and put together a spread sheet of organizations. All are tasked to think about communication strategies to keep citizens involved.

The question was raised about how the committee will accept donations for the new building. currently the select board must formally accept donations at their meetings and this was something the committee was to follow up on. S Weisman will follow-up with the Selectboard regarding donations to the NEW community center & library for 2021.

Our next meeting will be December 1 at 6 pm at the South Thomaston Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Weisman, co-chair
South Thomaston Library and Community Center Planning Committee

As promised here is the beginning of a list of granting organizations gleaned from other towns and at our meeting for everyone's knowledge. All are welcome to add to this list.

- Maine Community Foundation www.mainecef.org
- Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation www.stkfoundation.org
- Maine Humanities Foundation www.mainehumanities.org

- Worthington Foundation www.worthington-family-foundation.org
- Davis Family Foundation www.davisfoundations.org
- Morton Kelly Charitable Trust www.morton-kelly.org
- Efficiency Maine www efficiencymaine.com
- USDA www.usda.gov