

April 6 2022

Joint Meeting of the South Thomaston Library/Community Committee & Selectboard

Present: Selectboard Jeff Northgraves, Walter Reitz, John Spear

L & CC Committee: Sandy Weisman, Maureen Spencer, Moira Paddock, Marcia Turner, Anne Just (zoom), Pennie Alley (ex officio, non-voting). Gabe Tomasulo and Candace Smith came late.

Town Attorney: Kristin Collins

Several members of the community were present as well as interested parties on zoom, including Barbara Reitz, Sondra Wallace, Merle Rockwell, Catherine Bendheim, Alana Brann. Sally Merchant, Ed Modell, Betsy Lunt, Bob _____ and wife (all on zoom)

John Spear called the joint meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

M. Turner agreed to take minutes for the Library / Community Center Facility Committee.

Sandy Weisman presented the committee as formed by the Selectboard. The current committee was created to raise money and work with professionals towards creating a new facility to service the town. The mission of the committee was read. S Weisman asked the Selectboard if this was still the mission of the committee. The mission was accepted by the selectmen.

S. Weisman asked the committee if each member accepted the mission. A roll call of the committee revealed that not all members are aligned with the mission. S. Weisman further stated that alignment is needed by all to for 501c3 to raise funds.

K. Collins began a lengthy discussion of the merits or need of 501c3. Absent a 501c3 the town can raise funds, appoint a committee and manage any funds. A 501c3 can govern itself, raise funds independently, apply for grants, and manage such funds.

Selectman J Spear said the 501c3 can access private funds and grants that the town would not be able to do and expressed concern that governing of the committee stay clear to the mission. Selectman J Northgraves reiterated that such committee would be to raise money only as town ordinance established the corporation of trustees appointed by the selectmen as an arm of the town.

A lengthy discussion on how to structure the 501c3 ensued. Attorney K Collins said that the present committee can be on both the funding and design aspects of this project. K Collins said the committee should have a selectperson onboard a 501c3 and by-law approval. J Spear stated that all have to be going in the same direction and the town

meeting would have final approval of any major changes. K Collins will draft by-laws and structure of a draft ordinance for approval to be ready of town meeting, June 2022. W Reitz moved to have the attorney create a draft ordinance Seconded by Selectman Northgraves. Selectmen left this meeting T 7:36PM.

The Library / Community Center Facility Committee began their meeting at 7:26 pm. S Weisman called the meeting to order.

M Paddock moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022 meeting and seconded by G. Tomasulo. The motion passed 7-0.

Old Business. The Survey Planet results were discussed. S Weisman reported that to present only 31 surveys have been returned via email, and 15 hand copies. S. Weisman reported a few results. For the Library - a children's room, reading room and author presentations. For the Community Center - a place for Town Meeting / Senior Lunches / Emergency Center were the top categories. It was agreed that more needs to be solicited to establish the goal of determining what the town wants. It was agreed that the town is looking for a facility to meet library needs, a gathering place for both town meetings, group meetings, exercise facility. It was also agreed that thanks to volunteers many of the needs are being met and further desires could be solicited at the next town meeting. They survey date needs to be extended and surveys will be available at the Town Meeting in June.

New Business. At the next meeting on May 4 there will be a discussion about committee members alignment on the mission.

Motion was made by G. Tomasulo to adjourn with the next meeting scheduled for May 4. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Turner