

**TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON, ME
LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING #9 - REV. 0
SOUTH THOMASTON TOWN OFFICE
5:30PM 05/04/2022**

ATTENDING:

SOUTH THOMASTON SELECT BOARD

John Spear, Chair
Walter Reitz
Jeff Northgraves (virtual)
Terri Baines, Town Administrator

LIBRARY / COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY COMMITTEE

Sandy Weisman, Co-Chair
Gabe Tomasulo, Co-Chair
Moiria Paddock
Maureen Spencer
Marcia Turner
Candace Smith
Anne Just (virtual)
Pennie Alley

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Catherine Bendheim
Sondra Wallace
Sally Merchant (virtual)
Ed Modell (virtual)

MINUTES:

JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD AND LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY COMMITTEE

J. Spear called the Select Board to order at 5:30PM. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

S. Weisman called the Library and Community Center Facility Committee to order at 5:31PM. The agenda was adjusted to include the approval of prior meeting minutes. G. Tomasulo volunteered to take minutes of the present meeting.

J. Spear began discussion of the proposed bylaws of a new nonprofit 501©3 corporation to be incorporated to assist with fundraising for the Library and Community Center project. The organization can only be incorporated - I don't think this is quite true – perhaps just a wording problem. How about *“one option for incorporation that provides for the consent of the Town, is a warrant approved at Town Meeting.”* - something like that. with the consent of the Town through approval of a warrant at the Town Meeting. Topics discussed included whether the bylaws should specifically mention a new building, whether donations could be returned to donors in the event of the project not being

completed, the idea of membership in the corporation, the composition of the corporation's board of directors and the nominating process for same, potential committees and subcommittees reporting to the board of directors, the ability of the corporation to seek grants related to a building it will not own or administer. The Select Board agreed to review the bylaws with the town attorney in light of group feedback. W. Reitz stressed that the bylaws were a starting point and could be amended by the future board of directors subject to Select Board approval.

The Select Board and the Committee discussed the warrant article to be voted on at Town Meeting that would authorize the Select Board to incorporate the nonprofit corporation. J. Northgraves moved to approve the warrant article, W. Reitz seconded. The warrant article was approved by the Select Board 3-0. The Library and Community Center Facility Committee did not vote on the warrant article.

The Select Board adjourned and left the meeting at 6:31PM.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed the minutes of the 4/6/22 meeting. M. Paddock reminded the committee of the requirements for meeting minutes that are entered into the public record. M. Paddock moved to approve the minutes as amended via email comments. M. Spencer seconded. The minutes were approved 6-0.

A. Just departed the meeting at 6:38PM prior to the minutes vote.

OLD BUSINESS

The committee discussed the status of the survey seeking feedback on building programming from town residents. P. Alley stated that she has 10 surveys at the Library in addition to the surveys held by S. Weisman. The committee agreed to extend the survey deadline to 7/15/22 without a vote. The surveys will be printed and given to Terri Baines to include in the Town Report, and will be distributed at Town Meeting on 6/28/22.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee discussed its mission and founding documents. S. Weisman read Article 10 from the warrant of Town Meeting 2021 authorizing the Select Board to form the Library and Community Center Facility Committee. M. Paddock read the official mission statement for the committee issued by the Select Board.

The committee affirmed that the nonprofit corporation discussed previously would exist to fundraise and support committee activities but would not supplant the committee's charge to administer the design and fundraising process.

The committee discussed the amendment to Article 10 allowing the committee to consider a renovation of the existing Gilford Butler building if circumstances should change materially. It was noted the Select Board has explicitly clarified that a new building is the current focus of the committee. S. Wallace mentioned the importance of clarity of mission and communication in a fundraising context.

The committee discussed which steps to take first in the parallel design and fundraising processes after the survey due date of 7/15/22. Several committee members stressed the importance of moving quickly towards a potential building design. Other suggestions included quickly developing lists of granting organizations and potential donors, developing a vision statement and narrative for the project that could become a consistent message to grantors and donors, and sourcing potential nominations for the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation. C. Bendheim and others stressed the importance of alignment and consistency of messaging, both to donors and to the community.

M. Spencer mentioned that the current South Thomaston Town Library hosts coffee on Saturday mornings and encouraged the committee members to attend and hear the opinions of the attendees.

The committee agreed to begin collecting lists of organizations and possible donors ahead of the next meeting. The next committee meeting was scheduled on Thursday, 6/2/22 at 6:00PM. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday instead of the first Wednesday going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriel Tomasulo, co-chair