Town of South Thomaston, ME

Library and Community Center Facility Committee

**Minutes of Meeting #21**

**July 6, 2023 at the South Thomaston, ME Town office**

Present: Sandy Weisman, co-chair, Gabe Tomasulo, co-chair, Kate Clark, Jan Gaudio, Catherine Lerme, Moira Paddock, Candace Smith, Marcia Turner

Absent: no one

Public: no one

Zoom: no one

S Weisman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Adjustments to the Agenda:**

* G Tomasulo spoke to the committee to inform the committee he was stepping back and would be resigning from the committee proper on 7/6/23 at the end of the meeting. Due to work and family commitments there was no time, and change was needed. G Tomasulo said he would be involved in the 3 public meetings in July that are planned and would be available as needed but could not and would not consider being on the committee at this time. G Tomasulo has been an important, integral and major component to the committee and the design process. Committee members expressed their appreciation for his hard work.
* M Paddock asked that the bulletin board at the GBC be added to the agenda.

**Public Comments for items not on the agenda**: none

**Minutes:**

C Smith moved to accept the minutes from June 1, 2023. J Gaudio seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (2 members  abstained due to being absent at the June 1 meeting)

**Old Business:**

S Weisman reported that the committee would hold 3 public meetings to present the design concept and answer questions.

* 7/19/23 at 6:00 pm South Thomaston Town Office
* 7/22/23 or 7/29/23 10:00 am at GBC
* 7/25/23 at 6:00 pm Spruce Head Community Hall

S Weisman asked committee members to email the dates they can attend by 7/10/23

S Weisman discussed what was needed for the presentations:

* packets
* questions - FAQ’s and have these on a handout
* poster size floor plans
* testimonials
* where to advertise

S Weisman had requested Committee members bring questions to the meeting of some of the FAQ’s .

M Paddock ‘s questions

* Why not remodel GBC? Renovations have a lot of risks. S Weisman handed out information on the former Lura Libby School into the current Thomaston Town Office.
* What a new library/community center brings to the community?
* Why a new building for the future?
* Can the community afford a new building? Will it cost the town tax dollars?
* Can the new building host events? Show art exhibits/shows?
* What is the time frame for this new building?

C Smith’s questions:

* Benefits of a new building?
* Control of the building/ energy efficient/development of the area/ unites the community (home/workplace/church/community center)

C Lerme’s questions

* How will the money be raise to build the new building? Can we do it?

J Gaudio’s questions

* \*The value of the new building? The value to South Thomaston/? Will bring the community together year-round. Our own design.

S Weisman’s questions

* Why do we need to build a new building?
* \*Who will run a new building?
* \*How can we raise 3.6 million dollars?

After a lengthy discussion, the following was decided:

* K Clark volunteered to take notes at all 3 public hearings so nothing is missed in the Q & A sessions
* S Weisman will write up a press release and the press release will be submitted to Village Soup/Free Press and contact a reporter for an article
* M Paddock will write up specific questions for the meetings. (Ex How do I donate? Do you prefer 1 floor or 2 floors plan?)
* Post notices on the bulletin boards at the South Thomaston and Spruce Head Post Offices
* Have T Baines email the events via the town email list.
* Have P Williamson email the event to the Spruce Head Community Hall email list
* Committee members should arrive at 5:30 pm before the public meetings at the town office and the Spruce Head Community Center.
* S Weisman once the date is confirmed for GBC will email out the information

S Weisman reported that the nominating committee met on June 19 and discussed:

* People are interested but do not want to step up
* the board members will be alternating terms
* Info meetings - first step is the 3 public meetings, bulletin board at GBC, packets at the town office and having small group meetings at committee members’ home - 5 to 6 people.
* The bulletin board at GBS will have the floor plans posted with the FAQ”s and a copy of the packet that was handed out at the June 20th town meeting.
* retain information from the gatherings
* Create a list of interested people and their emails to keep updated
* Post more information on a website

Discussion of a town wide mailing was tabled.

**New Business:**

S Weisman handed out a “draft” case study, applying for grants etc. and suggested we do a workshop in the fall concerning this subject.

There was no correspondence.

The next scheduled meeting will be September 7, 2023 (1st Thursday of the month) at 6:00 pm at the South Thomaston, ME Town Office.

C Lerme moved to adjourn the meeting. C Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Moira Paddock

ST Library/Community Center Facility Committee