

Tuftonboro Free Library Building Committee

Minutes of the May 16th, 2007 Meeting at 4:00 PM

Those Attending:

Trustees: Carolyn Sundquist, Tina Antonucci

Librarians: Lindalee Lambert, Christie Sarles

Committee Members: Linda MacDonald, Lois McLean, Ruth Smith Terry Smith, Joan Theve,
Sarah Barnes Whelchel, Barbara Widmer

There was some discussion of the future use of the present building possibly as a:

- community center
- nursery school
- day care center
- police station

and it was agreed that, although citizens ask how the building will be used, the Selectmen will be making that decision for the town. It would be useful for the committee to invest their time gathering facts so they can present an informed, cohesive picture for the voters, the Budget Committee and the Selectmen. The Librarians and the Trustees will put together a letter for the Selectmen with suggestions that have been made for possible uses for the building.

Carolyn recommended the Americans for Libraries Council's website. Their website is www.americansforlibraries.org. The story of the Antrim, NH library expansion has good information which may be helpful to us. Carolyn said the Antrim experience mentions three essentials for gaining support:

- Support of Selectmen and Capital Improvements Committee(CIP)
- Trustee support
- A face to face campaign to inform voters

It was mentioned that the library has been generously supported by the Selectmen through the town budget.

Tina has discussed the vote with fellow parents from Tuftonboro Central School. The biggest issues:

- financial (business down, heating and gas up)
- not aware of all library has to offer
- didn't see a need
- disappointed with space limits (ex: Polar Express, etc.)

There was discussion of the need to show how the library enriches the education of Tuftonboro children. Tina suggested we ask the school to insert the “Tuftonboro Free Library” (green brochure), in the “Back to School” packets. This brochure outlines the services, resources and programs of the library.

Discussion re: future steps—

The timetable for the Capital Improvements Committee is uncertain. Christie is a member. The Budget Committee starts to function in September-October, and we want to be ready to meet with them as well as with the Selectmen.

We need to be able to give a good estimate of a taxpayer’s cost. With this in mind the committee decided to use part of the funds allotted at the 2006 town meeting to have the architect draw up more detailed plans for the new building reflecting some changes and further details for septic and water. This will help us ascertain as accurate a cost estimate as possible by fall when it will be time to approach the Budget Committee and the Selectmen.

Christie and Lindalee are going to set up a meeting with Tom Wallace, architect. Committee members are invited to join them. They will also compile a list of recent maintenance records and expected major expenses going forward for the present building.

Terry suggested our failure at Town Meeting resulted from a combination of unfortunate timing with other projects and voters being uncertain about the reasons a new facility was needed. Sarah noted an undercurrent suggesting there had been an unauthorized change in plans (from an expansion to a completely new building). Terry said we need to have communications points upon which we all agree so we can be on the same page with our “message.” Press releases, voter education materials, our presentations to groups and committees must be consistent as well as convincing. Terry will draft a message directed to a skeptical Tuftonboro resident reluctant to support the new building. We will discuss it at our next meeting on Thursday, May 31st at 2:30 p.m.

Additional marketing ideas:

- Terry also plans to take publicity photos of school groups using the library.
- A presentation can be made to the Hikers—perhaps at the regular February library meeting.
- We would like to find other opportunities, or ways to reach parents, especially to get them to come into the library.
- We should be able to find a lot of support within the senior citizen community.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ruth Smith