

Draft Notes of Focus Group Held September 26th, 2013 whose direction was to recall information from the August 29th, 2013 Community Meeting. Held at TML Maine Room.

Led by Martha MacAuslan TML Committee Chair
Notes taken by Kate Williams-Hewitt TML Committee Member

Present

Martha MacAuslan
Kate Williams-Hewitt
Bali Bollenback
Trish Brigham
Joe Chalat
Anita Samuelson
Sara Lennon
Carrie Croft
MaryAlice Wallace

Overview of the Town Council's charge to the Library Planning Committee.

Question 1:

State two things that you remember regarding what happened at Community Forum and two things that you personally think is important for the Library going forward.

Responses were:

Tear down.

Tear down existing library. There is not much love for existing building except for the old school house.

New greener building and grounds are needed.

Community:

The Library itself as an important center of community not necessarily the building.

Children want a place in the center of town that can be their gathering place and the library can/should be that. Schools are closed after school and in summer.

The libraries hosts knitting group, a philosophical group, a poetry group for adults to name a few.

Youngest and the oldest demographics want the library in town because they have limitations. Their needs are in town.

Remember that we have a wide variety of socio economical needs of people in town and a library serves all.

Civic Pride:

The library feeling needs to be warm and inviting.

Looking for a vibrant happy place, part learning atmosphere and part drop in with a coffee

shop.

We want to attract people to town who love books and culture. So we need to build a library that can provide culture.

Location:

People want library resources here in town, not regional library.

People want a building that is beautiful in the center of town.

Want the Library to be accessible by walking and bikes.

Center of town is not convenient for all neighborhoods, some families are closer to South Portland and Scarborough.

Space:

Flexibility of space for programming is most important, we do not necessarily need the building to be large. The space needs to be flexible for future trends and technology.

Less concerned with the programs but want the space to be flexible.

Safe for staff so they can be most efficient in their jobs.

A reading space that is lovely. Not sterile.

Make the space flexible. The adults have to be where the children are, so make it a flexible space to accommodate all.

Programming:

6 people noted the importance of children's focus and 3 added teens by name.

Programs are important so we can get a cultural thrill.

Does a coffee shop have to happen to have a cultural place?

Have to have the programing, services and right place and then the coffee will come.

Money:

Do not want to spend 8 million.

Do not want to spend high money, but people do want everything.

Use of space will change over the next 25 years, so keep space open and flexible.

Decide on what the town can afford, make a budget and decide on square footage and then go from there.

We don't need a bigger library, just more efficient.

Technology:

Docking Stations.

Access to evolving technology over time.

Flexibility to use technology.

Shared Resources:

How can the library connects in with the schools safely?

Make sure not to duplicate what we already have in town. Use resources that we already have in town for large meeting space. Don't build a large meeting space that is not used everyday.

Process:

Research other libraries like Falmouth, York, Kenneybunk and Lincoln, Massachusetts.
Make sure we do not waste resources reinventing the wheel.
Look for other models of where school and town coexist successfully.
Use of space will change over the next 25 years, keep it flexible.

Suggestions:

Do a survey tallying who and when people visit the library over a weeks time.

Accessibility:

Younger and elderly citizens are able to be at the library during the day.
Those who work don't use the library during the day, but they use Minerva to order and stop by to pick up a book and come afterwork to browse stacks.
Open on Sundays.

Future Regional Opportunities:

In the future there may be a Regional Storage Building where Minerva gets their books and distributes them to a smaller building with out stacks.
I do not want to build a building with stacks.
I want stacks so I can browse the shelves and find a book.

Part 2

Molly stated: At the Community Forum we heard that it is ok to tear down the existing building. Architects reported that the best way to be green is to keep the building. Would you follow what the census from the community forum?

One person agreed.

Two people disagreed.

Three people needed more information.

-one person needed more information from the architects because they couldn't visualize how it would work.

-one person wanted to make sure the employees feedback was considered by the architects.

-one person needed more information from the financials before agreeing.

One person didn't care about the building, they were focused on the services and the programing.

Question 3:

Rank what you recall was stated as important from the Community Forum.

- Ranked first

- 4 Program and Services
- 1 Community as a Focal Point in Community
- 1 Cost
- 1 New Building vs Renovation
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- Ranked last
- 2 Location
- 4 Building Exterior, Grounds and Parking
- 1 Interior Space

Rank what you think is important for the Library going forward

Ranked first

1 Building Exterior, Grounds and Parking

4 Programing and Services

2 Cost

Rank last

4 New Building vs Renovation

1 Library as a focal Point in the Community

2 Building Exterior, Grounds and Parking

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