

Dover Library Board of Trustees Minutes
Subcommittee on Library Advocacy
5/16/2008
2:00 PM
Dover Library

Present: Kate Haviland (until 2:20 PM), Alison Piper, Karen McKoy, Charlotte Canelli, Holly Collins and Guests – Beth Paisner and Patience Jackson, library building consultant from the MPLCP (Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program)

Ms. Haviland opened the meeting and put forward the request of the Friends for a one-day permit to serve alcohol in the Library for a thank you event at the library in October. The Board approved their application for the permit.

Ms. Jackson came with substantial supporting data for library construction in general, Massachusetts library construction projects in the last 20 years and grant history for previous Dover library construction. Being familiar with that last Dover expansion, she was also able to speak about the process and recommendations given at that time. The following are her comments:

Dover library renovation history:

Dover received a Federal LSCA Title II grant of \$106,131 – this grant applies to the current building being used as a library until 7/31/2016, otherwise would need to be repaid at 7% of the current appraised value of the building.

Dover received a state MPLCP grant of \$200,000, which stipulates “it shall remain a library for 20 years” (2016).

She remembers the 1996 renovation project as about \$1.2 million for only 2000 ft sq., with a total of 12,000 ft sq now. She also stated that there were concerns on the part of the MPLCP that the expansion was inadequate in size, had a lot of wasted space (? 700 ft sq) due to the two floor nature of the construction (there were architectural and landscape concerns which dictated those choices at the time).

If the current building is demolished or part used for non-library uses, this will have to be justified by the Trustees and Selectmen and reviewed by the MPLCP as being an improvement for library service for Dover, or we risk having to return that grant money. In addition, it is NOT assured that we would be eligible for more state grant money unless we can demonstrate significant improvement of library services to our community.

Dover library needs at present:

Ms. Jackson averred that any library less than 18,000 ft sq should be on a single level for staffing AND security reasons.

Looking at Dover population projections, if Dover reaches a population of 7000 by 2016, we will be at 1.71 ft sq space per capita (less if wasted space due to two floors is added in). The average for all recent MA library construction (in our population range) is 1.66 per capita. Other towns similar to Dover with recent building are Lincoln with 2.58 per capita, Harvard at 4.05, Williamstown at 2.24, Groton at 1.28, Southboro at 2.12, Weston at 2.91.

Considering the socioeconomic and educational level of the Dover population, the wasted current space, lack of staff facilities and meeting room space, she recommended an expansion of at least 4,000 ft sq for LIBRARY use alone (to include community, children's, YA and tutoring meeting space, a staff bath and workspace, conference room for library use and space for an interior fire-safe book drop.)

Other MA libraries associated with senior center or COA:

Very few libraries have attempted combined functions. There are combined library/senior centers in Hanson and Mansfield (and one being planned in Townsend) and combined library/town halls in Littleton and Tyngsborough. Of particular concern in both Hanson and Mansfield have been adequate parking (especially if busses bring seniors), dedicated bathroom space for library users and staff, and significant conflicts over meeting room space, with the library often being the "loser".

She estimated a senior center with eating space (for a hot lunch program), administration and some exercise/classroom space (as is being considered in Wayland now on a 1 acre site for combined library/senior center)) would need at least 8,000 ft sq of functional space.

Suggested other libraries to visit:

Ms. Jackson gave a list of recent library constructions in MA for all population sizes, which should be visited if library construction is contemplated. In addition, she gave out a "Library Building Program Workbook" to be used by the Director and Trustees in planning any expansion for the future.

Respectfully submitted, Karen McKoy, Secretary