

STEWART B. LANG MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
BUILDING COMMITTEE- Minutes of First Meeting- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Call to Order and Welcome: Jim Dillon, Library Board President, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Julie Dillon volunteered to take notes of the meeting.

Introductions: Committee members introduced themselves. Those present- Paul Bramble, Betty Brant, Lisa Byrne, Trevor Cady, Barb Clemens, Julie Dillon, Emma Greene, Elaine Malda, Jim Perfield, Eva Taylor-Sholes, Dennis Taylor and Gayle James (Library Director), James Dillon (Library Board Rep.) and Jill Fudo, (Architect). Absent- Linda Daly, Joan McCadden, Kyle Menard

Background: Jim Dillon shared a brief outline of the history of the Library and its growth from 1926 to the present. The current Library building was constructed in the mid-1980s on land leased from the Village of Cato. In addition to helping fund construction, the Lang family established a trust fund to provide continuing income for the Library. This trust along with funds from CMCS property taxes, patron gifts, donations and library aid programs are the source of the Library's annual operating and maintenance income.

In the early 1990s the Library Board began discussion of enlarging the building. In 2012, at the request of the Board, Architect Jill Fudo became involved and provided very helpful pro-bono assistance. A 2017 design concept explored the possibility of adding a second floor to the existing building. This design was judged less than ideal and was tabled pending further study.

In 2018, with the assistance of the SU Maxwell School, patron and non-patron surveys were conducted to assess the community's view on the possible expansion of the Library. The results were favorable to an expansion, but too few people responded to support a decision.

The Library Board and Cato Village Board are currently discussing options for sale of the current Library and possible location of a new library building on their Millard Ave. property. The Village has agreed in principal to leasing or selling land to the Library at this location. The Library Board is considering this option but is open to other alternatives.

The Library Board has unanimously voted to pursue a building project and is now seeking input from members of the community, hence the formation of this building committee and its charter.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comment: Current building has met its potential both inside and out (not enough parking)

Q: How much land is available on Millard Ave?

A: About 2 acres

Q: How wet is the land on Millard Ave?

A: Quite wet. The land would require significant site work.

Q: Has there been any discussion about having a shared services space? The village office building is quite sparse. Maybe they would be interested in expanding their space and sharing the cost.

A: Village Board did not seem interested in leaving their current building but were interested in having a larger community meeting space.

Comment: No set location has been determined for a new building -all options are open.

Q: What is the zoning of the current location of the Library?

A: The current zoning is commercial but Village Board says it can be changed

Q: What about an onsite expansion of the Library?

A: This is a possibility but current site is very limited in space.

Q: Could current site be expanded by purchasing adjoining property?

A: unknown

Q: What is current attendance at Library programs?

A: Gayle gave everyone a hand out listing current library programs with attendance information.

She passed out another handout with circulation figures & computer use. Gayle stated that access, rather than size is the main problem of the current Library. There is not enough room for the Library's collection, not enough space to safely store the Library's archives, & there is not an area large enough for community meetings

Suggestion: Find a way to make possible expansion known to folks attending the upcoming Alumni Banquet.

Jim read questions/comments from committee members unable to attend this meeting

1. Comment-There must be an initial reaching out to the community-maybe in form of bulk mailing.

Suggestion-hold our committee meetings on Sat. morning since it is so difficult to access the library on week day evenings.

2. Comment-current staff is doing a wonderful job considering the space they have. Current programs are great but have to be held the basement and a basement is a basement. A larger library space is very much needed. Suggestion-How about renovating the Cato Hotel-It would be great to preserve this historic building.

Jim also read an e-mail from the Librarian at the CMHS. She stated that when she redesigned the high school library her main thought was flexibility. Her goal was to create defined areas of the library to address different needs. Places where students could work alone or together in large groups or small groups. Tables with wheels can be moved as needed. She also shared information about how she updated the Library's technology area. She recommended our committee visit area libraries.

Comment: Lang Library could use a technology upgrade

Jill and Jim spoke briefly about some grants that we might qualify for. If all goes well with planning and fund raising it could be possible to break ground by the Fall of 2020.

### YES/NO POLL ON ENLARGEMENT:

Result: committee members were in unanimous agreement that current Library needs to be enlarged

### PROCESS AND WHAT'S NEXT-Jill Fudo

Jill asked the members to envision their ideal library and to think about the role of the Library in our community, not just now but into the future. What other organizations might utilize an expanded Library? What services might the Library offer to the school, to mothers of young children, to senior groups, teen groups, etc.? What type of community programs/partnerships might the Library consider?

Jill shared her experience of visiting the Library in Phoenix, Arizona. She explained that she was most impressed by the flexibility of the space. She encouraged committee members to visit other libraries for ideas.

Jill provided a library usage and programs worksheet for each member to fill out and bring to the next meeting. Jim encouraged the members to obtain input from their families, friends and community contacts. Jill asked Gayle to make a list of the uses demanded of the current library space.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>-6 PM at Lang Library  
Committee to elect a chairperson and secretary