

LFNAC Forum
May 28, 2008
7:30 PM
Sirius Community

LFNAC Members Present: Mary Anne Antonellis, Martha Field, Dale Houle, Weezie Houle, Karen Traub, Lori Tuominen,

Guests: Dina Stander, Frank, Pemma – SES Pre-school, Monique, Henasusha, Mark Tuominen, David Dann, Sandy Olken

Mary Anne gave an introduction and everyone introduced themselves.

During introductions everyone expressed interest in the library. How can we support a new library facility? People want to give the library effort and energy. Thanks to the LFNAC committee for holding these forums and pursuing a new library.

Karen gave the background on the establishment of LFNAC.
Mary Anne and Karen explained the planning grant.

Mary Anne expressed her views that library patrons crave more services from the library. Currently, story hour requires moving furniture and stacks. Books need to be weeded out in order to get new books. Magazines are only kept for 3 months. Some books are stored temporarily. Friends of the Library will have a book sale at which some of the weeded books will be sold. Extras will then be sent to WMRLS and shared. Mary Anne gave a few other library updates.

Discussed survey questions #11 and #12. –The library can give a strong community and be part of a town center. We must think about the future and what the town will need. Those projected needs are what can strengthen the community. Visiting other new town libraries like Sunderland, Wendell and Leverett would give an idea of the potential of a new library. We need to have events or meetings anytime without the constraints of the small library.

There hasn't been a strong impact on the town since SES was built. That was a strong community builder and the library can be that, too.

Karen talked about the future trends of library; libraries will move from places of information to places of culture.

Are there limitations to receiving a match if there is community space attached to the building? Can community rooms be rented? The Jones rents out space and so does the Wendell library. Some of the use would be for library programs along with community events.

Rental income could circulate back to the library or to the town.

Some events and activities Shutesbury residents travel out of town for could be right in own town. The community aspect is actually encouraged in the library building plan.

Another thing that is missing is a place to buy a cup of coffee. Could a snack bar be part of the library? It was noted that Boston Public Library sells coffee. We cannot sell hamburgers, but we can offer bagels, muffins and drinks. The Spear Library has no water, but in a new building we would actually have plumbing!

“My dream library is a model municipal green project. It is a building that would be sustainable, have an active solar system. Something that other communities could look to and see that sustainability is doable for a small community.”

“Also, I would like to have active community space and for a community garden.

“The other idea is a room for history. We need a room that is climatically correct and cases for historical materials. We really need a space that honors the town history.”

“My kids sent me to say that we need space for more books. My kids will help with fund raising.”

How would some of the guests at the forum like the spaces in the other libraries. It would be possible to go to Sunderland on Friday and experience their Friday coffee morning.

Shutesbury Elementary School gives excellent community for people who have kids in the school and people visit for the spaghetti supper or play basketball, but there is a disconnect from SES for other town people.

“The current Spear library is too small to stay because when you are in the library you take up space and need to give other people the chance to use that space. So, I sometimes leave more quickly than I would like to.”

Comments regarding survey question #14

The library helps with community education and those of us who grew up poor gained many services from libraries. This is an informal education that libraries give and it is important to keep this service.

“There will not be many opportunities for Shutesbury to build a building so many opportunities need to be combined. To think of combining needs, such as having community space with the library is very important.”

How would the town raise money for this project? The town would probably borrow over a period of long time like 20 years. Would this money be taking away from something else? What is the “else” that is this money would take away? No other town department has a greater need than the library for a new

building and more space. The Library really doesn't have competition for town space.

This committee needs to find a size of a new library that the community can financially support and that the town will vote for.

It would cost about \$11 per person per year for 20 years if a building costs \$1.5 million. But this is hypothetical; LFNAC does **NOT** know the price of a new library yet. Costing is part of the planning process. If you joined the Jones library, it would be \$35 per person per year.

The top of the hill is too dangerous for kids. The library should be closer to SES.

The town needs to make use of the current library building when a new library would be built.

To continue with the spirit of community, outside space needs benches and play facilities for children. Some hiking trails would be nice.

From the energy committee, there is no public transportation now, but in the future the town will need public transportation. We need a place for people to drive and leave their car so they can then take public transportation. Maybe there could be enough parking spaces to facilitate a park-and-ride. Even right now there is some car pooling starting and a space to leave cars is needed.

The large Sirius Community room is licensed for 90 people. Do people here feel this room is big enough? We would not want the library community room any smaller. The size of the community room needs to have consensus among townspeople.

Hanasusha will share the information/survey results with the Sirius Community and the general discussion about how the library would be funded and other issues discussed, particularly the need to weed books. We just don't have enough space for books. Books are treasures and the idea of throwing out books is a very poignant story. There is a lot of interest in going to other libraries because of what we don't have in Shutesbury. There is a wish list of what we'd like to have here in Shutesbury and not have to go to another town.

Mary Anne explained that weeding is a fact of life with libraries even if they are not small, but for Shutesbury it is more impactful and dramatic because of the small size limitations. We live in a town of voracious readers.

How does book circulation compare to DVD/Video and CD circulation? DVDs are in heavy circulation, so at any one time about a third of that collection is in people's homes. They are replaced more quickly.

LFNAC shares the common goals of sustainability and community with Sirius.

People are appreciative of the process of LFNAC and forums should continue. Updates should be given at different times of LFNAC's progress. Place updates in the Our Town news. If you want more feedback, use the Our Town news to solicit feedback.

Keep a close link to the energy committee. The building should take advantage of the site for passive solar and to be completely sustainable. Both Lot 032 and the lot behind the town hall have good exposure for solar.

Thank you!