

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
TRUSTEE MINUTES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
UNAPPROVED

Present: Charity Clark, Shari Westman, Karla Karstens, Steve Perkins, Barbara Mieder;
Librarian: Bonnie Lord-Meunier; Town Manager: Erik Wells; Black River Design: John
Hemmelgarn, Heather Mooney

Absent: Brian Goodwin, Diane Downer

Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Schematic Design Committee results and recommendations:

Black River Design presented their plans for the library expansion and renovation and Town Green improvements. They started by presenting the site plan, which showed the removal of parking along Library Lane, the new parking lot and the library expansion. There is also additional parking by the Schoolhouse, a performance area and new plantings and landscaping on the Town Green. Additionally, a plan to add a left-turn lane along the exit road, which will ease congestion at that busy spot.

It should be noted that this plan keeps the library on the Town Green, and because it is a renovation of the existing building and an expansion, is the most cost-effective solution. Storm water treatment plans for the Town Green will be coordinated with the school.

Next there was a detailed plan of the inside of the library, indicating where bookshelves will be placed and the location of Staff offices, meeting rooms and the large event space. There will be a Maker Space, Wiggle Room, and a corridor connecting the adult collections to the youth side of the library. The second floor of the new addition will house the adult collections and meeting rooms. There will be seating in front of the large windows and cozy nooks in the dormer window areas. There will be a new ceiling for the duct work and electric heat pumps will be installed. The library will be a space filled with light and pleasantness!

Black River Design also showed sketches of what the interiors could look like with people and furniture. All very warm and welcoming!

The building plan, if funds are approved, would be to demolish the ends of the existing library and build the addition. Then move the materials into the addition and work on the renovations of the current library.

Exterior views were also presented, showing the building from different perspectives. The building would be combination of white clapboard, to fit with the current library, and reddish brick, to blend in with WCS and other Town buildings in the Village.

Next, Black River Design present a very detailed breakdown of the cost for the project. This involved the cost for the addition and renovation, plus all the other items that are necessary for a building project. Other costs include a 10% contingency fund, asbestos abatement, permits, testing, printing costs, Clerk of the Works, furniture, and equipment.

The cost estimate for the project is \$13,451,686. This is slightly more than the estimated made in August 2023, but can be justified by the fact that the addition is larger (9,000 vs. 11,567 square feet) and inflation over the past year.

The overall response from the Trustees was very positive and they expressed their appreciation to John and Heather and the rest of the team for their work. This process was started in January 2023 with the scoping study and then continued with the Schematic Design Committee. During the entire process there has been a concerted effort to get input from Williston residents through the surveys and participation on the committees. The Schematic Design Committee reached out to Town Band members, the Williston Historical Society and WCS Leadership.

A Motion was made to Support the plans as presented and to transmit the scope of the project to the Selectboard for their consideration. APPROVED.

The next step will be a presentation to the Selectboard on Tuesday, February, 18. Trustees are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.