

**Yarmouth Library Planning Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 29, 2022**

**Attending Committee Members:** Joseph Baker, George Bovino, Linda Callahan, Sue Loveland, Will Rubenstein and Richard Simon. Mary Reardon Johnson absent.

**Attending from the Library Department:** Jane Cain

**Attending from the Public:** Stephen Singer

The virtual Zoom Meeting was called to order shortly after 4:10 PM.

1. As required by state open meeting law, a public notice was read and a rollcall vote was conducted to authorize use of the online meeting method. All LPC members voted in the affirmative. The meeting was recorded and is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TownofYarmouthMassachusetts/videos>
2. The meeting was opened to public comment. No comments were offered and the meeting continued.
3. The minutes of Feb 15<sup>th</sup> were approved by unanimous rollcall vote.
4. As discussed at its Feb meeting, the LPC is seeking guidance/clarification from the Town Administrator's office regarding several town owned parcels with the size to accommodate a new library facility. Preparation for the Apr 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting will push any meeting with town management into May.
5. Chairperson Callahan and Director Cain recapped their Mar 10<sup>th</sup> visits to two recently opened libraries in Weymouth and Norwell. Both facilities have seen usage double compared with the activity levels of the old buildings.

Weymouth started with 4 library facilities. The collection at the Main branch was distributed to the smaller branches prior to the demolition and construction on the main branch site. When the new Main branch reopened, the South Weymouth branch continued operations while the collections from 2 branches were moved back to the Main branch and the branches closed. A newly elected Mayor was instrumental in securing funding for the town's portion of the project.

Both library directors offered thoughtful insights on designs that worked (e.g. teen room adjacent to adult instead of children services, screened and open outside spaces) and those that didn't (e.g. undersized storage for meeting/maker spaces, undersized general overhead lighting). The need to update the prior version of the 'Library Building Program' (LBP) to incorporate the latest MBLC "Library Space" recommendations (esp. the 'Pandemic Considerations' section) further informed by real world best practices of recently constructed facilities.

6. In addition to updating the LBP, the prior facilities assessment prepared by Johnson Roberts may need to be updated to address MBLC pandemic

considerations. In addition, a comprehensive assessment of site alternatives and a community outreach & communications program should be developed. One of the town meeting warrants would provide \$50,000 in FY23 funding for a library feasibility study which could include the four items referenced above. Future (May-June) discussions with the Assistant Town Administrator are required to move forward.

7. Chairperson Callahan was able to speak with the School Superintendent about possible issues (e.g. shared access, student safety, etc.) regarding the Christmas Way/Old Town House Road parcels. The Superintendent indicated a library would be a good neighbor for the school, albeit with practical limitations of the fencing separating the school's sports fields from the parcels and the increased traffic on Station Ave when an additional 850 students are moved into the new middle school in Jan 2023 which suggests access to the parcels would require an extension of Old Townhouse Rd.
8. At last month's meeting, Mary Reardon Johnson offered to be the point person for the next iteration of the FAQs with an emphasis on the shortcomings and risk factors of the existing facilities that would be far more costly to mitigate when compared to the alternative of a single new facility. For reference, the JRA report that provides most of the relevant facts can be viewed at the following link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sH7P-0\\_N2LpFtK5G3esFidgnzLG8gHMY/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sH7P-0_N2LpFtK5G3esFidgnzLG8gHMY/view)

This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

9. The Chair reminded everyone the Chair, Vice Chair and Sec'y positions on the committee must be voted on at the next meeting following the Apr 26 Annual Town Meeting as required by the town's 'Handbook for Boards, Commissions & Committees.'
10. The LPC will meet next on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30PM.

A motion to adjourn was accepted by unanimous rollcall vote about 5:20 PM.