

MBLC advised to hire architect, manager for library

By Caitlyn Kelleher
JOURNAL REPORTER

The Library Board of Trustees and the Library Building Committee have been told the next step is to hire a project manager and an architect to develop a feasibility study and schematic design for the expansion project.

Anne Larsen, of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, spoke with the two library boards and the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Jan. 30. She told them they should look at many options for either a new building or a renovation and expansion project, now that Library Director Heidi Fowler has finished a program design.

Larsen advocated the need for the project to be successful.

"I have serious concerns when I sit in that library," Larsen said.

She cited the lack of handicap accessibility, the difficulty in staffing multi-levels with hidden corners, and a lack of multi-egresses.

The town can hire the project manager and the architect using the money they have from a planning grant from the MBLC.

Fowler developed a program for the library based on 20-year population projections, the collections size and the expanding technology that would require 16,000 square feet.

"It's your business plan," Larsen said.

The MBLC will consider the plans for construction grants if they meet specific regulations. Most construction grants

fund about 40 percent of the project, but the formula is about to change because of rising construction costs.

The library is currently 4,000 square feet.

No one knows what size building will fit on the current site on Main Street because there is a river on one side of the building, Main Street in front of the building and the access to Town Hall a third side.

Selectman David Chenelle said the local bylaws do not make exceptions for municipal buildings, so will have to be adhered to.

Larsen said an architect should be able to answer the group's questions.

Town Administrator Gregory Barnes asked what items will be considered under the grant.

Larsen said a building with multi-uses could be acceptable, so long as the library is clearly separated.

"It's fine as long as it functions as a library," she said. "We pay for libraries, we don't pay for anything else."

In other business, selectmen ...

- Agreed to support Dana King's request to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority to get an easement across their unused tracks.

- Interviewed Michael Ciota of Ciota, Starr, and Vander Linden law firm of Fitchburg for the position of town counsel.

- Accepted a \$3,600 for a Click It or Ticket Mobilization grant and an Impaired Driving Mobilization grant.

Friends of Willard Brook Winter Carnival Schedule Saturday, February 10

Ongoing: Ice Sculpture Demonstration — two blocks of ice will turn into a beautiful animal.

Children's Games — Enjoy old-fashioned winter crafts and games. Nominal fee.

Winter Natural History Exhibit — Hot soup, coffee, cocoa and goodies. Proceeds go to Friends of Willard Brook

Friends of Willard Brook Information and Membership Table

10 a.m. — Cross-country ski trip or hike (depending on conditions) through Willard Brook State Forest with leader Paul Sebring. This trip is for folks who feel comfortable with cross-country skiing basics. Meet at Friends Trail trailhead.

10:30 a.m. — New England Wildlife program with Paula Packard, DCR field biologist and instructor at Fitchburg State College. Meet by the fire and learn about animals of New England. View stuffed specimens up close and find out how the animals survive winter weather.

10:30 a.m. — Smokey Bear visits Pearl Hill State Park.

11 a.m. — Cross-country Ski Lesson/Workshop with Laurie Gullion, ski instructor and author of several skiing books. Bring your own skis or rent some. (No snow cancels this one.)

11:30 a.m. — Snowshoe Trek or Hike (depending on conditions) with leader Sussie Holzberlein. Bring your own snowshoes or rent some at the park. Enjoy a leisurely trek through the forest. Meet at Friends Trail trailhead.

11:30 a.m. — Search and Rescue Dogs — meet Emmitt Francis, Maggie, Simon, Deni and their handlers. Ranger Jennifer Stowe will teach you about the training and adventures of these wonderful dogs. Program takes place by the campfire.

12 p.m. — Smokey Bear visits Pearl Hill State Park.

12:30 p.m. — New England Wildlife program with Paula Packard, DCR field biologist and instructor at Fitchburg State College. Meet by the fire and learn about animals of New England. View stuffed specimens up close and find out how the animals survive winter weather.

1 p.m. — Kids' Nature Walk with leader Tim Driskell, USGS biologist. Kids and their parents may join Tim for a walk through the forest looking for animal tracks and signs of winter activities. Meet at Friends Trail trailhead.

1:15 p.m. — Smokey Bear drops by to greet everyone.

1:30 p.m. — Beginner's Cross Country Ski Tour with instructor Laurie Gullion. Join Laurie for a short ski trip through Pearl Hill State Park. Practice the skills you learned earlier in the day. (No snow cancels this one.)

1:30 p.m. — Stories Around the Campfire. Sussie Holzberlein will read some winter stories to children of all ages.

2 p.m. — Nature in Winter Join Audubon naturalist and author Peter Alden and Friends' president Emily Norton for a winter nature walk along Pearl Hill Brook. Meet at Friends Trail trailhead.

2 p.m. — Search and Rescue Dogs — meet Emmitt Francis, Maggie, Simon, Deni and their handlers. Ranger Jennifer Stowe will teach you about the training and adventures of these wonderful dogs. Meet by the campfire.

2:45 p.m. — Prize drawing, all new members of Friends of Willard Brook and \$10 donors will be eligible for this prize drawing. Tons of neat prizes. Gather by the FOWB table.

Townsend Recreation Department to sponsor trip to Flower Show

Experience Spring at the New England Flower Show, at the Bayside Expo Center in Boston, on Saturday, March 17, 2007. The coach bus will leave the Townsend Common at 9 a.m. and will return at 4 p.m. Ticket with transportation is \$31 for adults; \$26 for children (under 12). Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with payment to Townsend Recreation and mail to Karen Clement, 101 Main St., Townsend, MA 01469. Orders must be received by Saturday, Feb. 17 (the trip will be canceled if there are not more than 40 responses, payment will be returned.) For additional information, call Karen Clement at (978) 597-5914.

Buying a new coin

The 275th Anniversary Committee and the town of Townsend is selling 1,000 minted bronze-like coin is on sale at the Town Hall. The coin, which is silver dollar sized, has an outline of the Town Hall on the face with the date of incorporation. There is also the 275th anniversary logo, which is also on the t-shirts, water bottles and magnets

For more information contact Susan Funaiolo in the Town Clerk's Office at (978) 597-1704 or at clerk@Townsend.ma.us



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