

Town of Marlborough
Board of Selectmen
PUBLIC HEARING
March 15, 2011 6:30pm
Town Hall

1. Call to Order - First Selectman Bill Black called the Public Hearing to order at 6:32pm. Present and seated were Bill Black and Riva Clark. Peter Hughes was also present.
B. Black stated this is a continuance of a public hearing from March 1, 2011 to bring the library to ADA compliance for the first floor and expansion on the second floor. B. Black gave a summary of the grant process and what has been completed to date.
2. Receipt of Written Correspondence
 - a. Letter of Support from Barbara G. Monstream of WIN Investment Group Marlborough dated March 11, 2011 read for the record.
 - b. Letter of Support from Launa Reidenbach of 38 Roberts Road, Marlborough read for the record.
 - c. Letter of Support from Patricia Cosgrove of 58 Williamsburg Road, Marlborough dated March 10, 2011 read for the record.
 - d. Letter of Support from Nancy M. Wood, Library Director Richmond Memorial Library dated March 15, 2011 read for the record.

B. Black stated correspondence and letters of support are still welcome to be sent and will be included in the grant application.

3. Public Comments

Lisa Seethaler 68 Pettengill Road, mother of two and co-founder of Marlborough Education Foundation, stated they hold monthly meetings at the library. The room is small and finds it alarming the library is not ADA compliant which prevents a section of the population from having access to a public location. Ms. Seethaler also thinks it is important to provide a space for students to work away from home on research projects.

David Porteous 15 Edstrom Road, remembers the building of the library years ago as the greatest community project. He feels the library expansion would complete a vital service for the town, second in importance only to the school. Mr. Porteous further stated he would be willing to support the project as a taxpayer in order to move forward as a town.

Maryjane Traska 54 Millstone Drive, is a former teacher who values a library as a teacher and is amazed to see the number of individuals who frequent the Richmond library from East Hampton and surrounding towns. She would like to see the expansion come to fruition and fulfill the dream of the library.

Reidenbach family 38 Roberts Road, would like to make the library bigger so there is more room. States it is difficult to get to the upstairs with children and unable to use the children's room several times a year due to storage of books for the book sale.

Debbie Bourbeau 174 North Main Street, library board member and veteran teacher in Marlborough who has known of students who were unsuccessful with meeting at each other's homes to work on school projects due to homes being too small or located too far away from. Ms. Bourbeau stated that to have a central location like the library would make that more doable. She also remembers as a child in her own town having a quiet space to read, which has been lost at the Richmond library due to the size of the collection and lack of space. She also recognizes the need for an elevator to access the second floor.

Linda Cherry Sherwood Lane, past president of library board and is a supporter of this effort. She further stated that as an aging senior feels the need to improve the ability to access the second floor as stairs are becoming more of an issue for her as well as other people. It is also necessary to be able to move items that are part of programs more easily to the second floor.

Mike Quincy 54 Emily Road, stated he has worked with Nancy Wood on the library board for several years and commended her hard work and efficiency to maximize the space available at the library. Mr. Quincy hopes the town will support this project in any way possible.

Jim Cherry Sherwood Lane, agreed with his wife, Linda Cherry, that storage area in library is limited. In addition, Mr. Cherry pointed out that tables for the book sale are stored on the second floor and it is difficult to bring them downstairs. Mr. Cherry stated the library collections are weeded more than they should be because of lack of space. He stated the magazines are not stored properly because there is no space in addition to not having quiet study space for RHAM students. He sees a huge need for the library expansion and asked for the town's support in that project.

B. Black recognized the library is "bursting at the seams" and agreed the library prematurely retires materials due to lack of space.

Riva Clark commented she would like the project to be completed as well.

4. Close Hearing - Bill Black closed the hearing with a brief description of the steps to take to apply for the small cities grant to fund the project. On the agenda for the BOS meeting is a resolution to apply for the small cities grant. B. Black invited the public to look at the preliminary sketches of the expansion project completed by the architect. Peter Hughes gave an explanation of the preliminary design. Peter Hughes briefly explained the timeframe for the completion of the expansion project. The library will remain open during construction. The designs will be up on the library website for the public to view as reported by Nancy Wood. Any additional letters of support need to be completed by the end of this week or next and sent to the Board of Selectmen P.O. Box 29 Marlborough, CT 06447.

5. Adjournment – The public hearing was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Migliaro
Board Clerk