

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Public Library Board of Library Trustees

Minutes of Public Meeting February 25, 2013

Provincetown Town Hall

Members Present: Patsy Greene, EveLyn Kratz, Mick Rudd, Donna Vaillancourt, Louise Venden

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Cheryl Napsha, Library Director

Selectmen Austin Knight, Elaine Anderson, David McChesney, John Santos, Erik Yingling

Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Assistant Town Manager David Gardner, BOS Secretary Vernon Porter, Finance Director Dan Hoort

Call to Order: Ms. Kratz called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Ms. Kratz thanked the Board of Selectmen for taking time to meet with the library board. She read from a prepared statement that detailed the roles and responsibilities of the library board, according to Massachusetts law. She also discussed the proposed siting of the AIDS memorial on the library lawn. Reasons for not placing the memorial there included that the site as it is was completed according to drawings approved at Town Meeting, by the Mass Historic Commission and by private donors who had specifically funded the design as it is now.

Mr. Knight asked if the BOS could be provided with a list of donors. Ms. Kratz stated that several donations, including the primary one, were from anonymous donors, but thought that perhaps that information could be shared confidentially with the BOS.

Ms. Anderson expressed sorrow for the oversight of earlier discussions which had not included the library board. She asked if there was a space on the library property that might be appropriate for the memorial.

Ms. Kratz stated that the area where the bike racks used to be would be the only available space. That space is approximately 5 feet deep by 9 feet long.

Ms. Anderson noted that the next step would be a discussion with the Cultural Council. It's not possible to determine a site without knowing the dimensions of the proposed sculpture.

Mr. Rudd noted that the library lawn was not a possibility because it was not ADA compliant, an important consideration for a sculpture representing the AIDS epidemic. He stated that there was a covenant with the library as an historic site, and that it was unfortunate that the public library was chosen.

Mr. McChesney asked if it was possible to move the wall in front of the lawn. Ms. Kratz replied that that was not possible.

Mr. McChesney replied that it was unfortunate that the selection process got ahead of the library.

Mr. Yingling stated that he wants to arrive at a solution fairly soon.

Ms. Kratz replied that if the library can be involved in the selection process the board will be open to new ideas.

Ms. Lynn added that the lawn and access to a proposed memorial has issues. The process was vetted for many years. Nobody knows what the sculpture will look like. Other locations had been discussed in the past.

Ms. Anderson noted that she would like to see groups look at the space where the bike rack had been, adding that nobody knows what space was being discussed. She stated that she would like to see all agencies meet.

Mr. Rudd, speaking as a private citizen, stated that he was concerned that there was nothing in the town's charter that creates a process for everlasting monuments. He added that the only body that can create such a process is town meeting. The library was being asked to work with the Cultural Council, a grant-making body that has no jurisdiction over the library or over the funding. He also added that there was an existing memorial to the AIDS epidemic in the library itself that the Board of Library Trustees had created years ago.

Mr. Knight replied that town meeting had spoken on the issue because they awarded grant funds to the Cultural Council to begin the process of creating a memorial.

Mr. Rudd noted that while town meeting may have voted funds, they should know what the sculpture is and where it will be situated. They expect to hear something specific put in front of them.

Ms. Venden noted that AIDS has impacted everyone and agreed that there should indeed be a memorial. She was concerned that there had been no statement on what kind of memorial it should be, asking if it was intended to be contemplative. That would dictate the space that was appropriate for it. She added that there needs to be a more clear statement.

Mr. Yingling replied that it was important for everyone to reach consensus.

Mr. McChesney noted that if it was not going to be on the library lawn then it probably wouldn't be at the library.

Mr. Rudd replied that the board wasn't determined that the memorial shouldn't be at the library, but that the process thus far had been flawed.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Cultural Council must come back before the BOS.

Mr. Yingling queried the BOS on the possibility of housing the memorial at Town Hall.

Ms. Kratz noted that the Bas Relief might be an appropriate space, as there was a large area on the east side that was not developed. Ms. Anderson agreed that that would be an attractive space.

Mr. Knight stated that it was important to determine the scope of the project before moving forward. He thanked the library board for coming before the BOS and voicing their concerns.

Ms. Venden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Napsha*