

**MERIDEN LIBRARY/Meriden Village
STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES 2016**

**MINUTES FOR June 21, 2016 Meeting
Location: Meriden Library, 7pm**

**Attending: Amy Lappin; Suzanne Spencer; Cindy Heath; Steve Taylor; Rod
Wendt; Mark Pensgen; Dewey Jones**

The committee met at the library and walked around the building to better understand the land features and the boundaries associated with the building and the nearby Meriden Grange and TDS building.

We met briefly inside the library to discuss prospects and issues with making the library ADA compliant.

We discussed alternatives to an outside ramp that might involve a modest addition to the current building.

We reviewed the study done for Meriden library showing circulation figures and visits by patrons.

For the next meeting we will explore having a conversation with people at TDS and what plans they have for the current building. We also want to explore what options might be possible for the grange building.

Next Meeting to be held at Meriden Library, 7pm, July 19th.

MINUTES FOR July 19, 2016 Meeting
Location: Meriden Library, 7pm

Attending: Mary King; Rod Wendt; Suzanne Spencer; Brad Atwater; Amy Lappin; Steve Taylor; Hunter Ulf; Dewey Jones

The committee met at 7pm in the library and reviewed our discussion from the last meeting. We discussed last meeting and reviewed our discussion. We discussed making the Meriden library ADA compliant which also led to a brainstorming session on uses for community space that might be open to serving the greater community. Items listed were: meeting space for 4-H group; after school space for tutoring; book groups; yoga group, etc.

Discussion further moved toward thinking about the changing character of Meriden village. The center of Meriden village is shifting away from Meriden Hill and nearer to the library, the new restaurant, art gallery. It was suggested that with this taking place and with Kimball Union Academy wishing to relocate the Meriden post office we further study options near the library, which involves the Meriden Grange property. Since last meeting Dewey Jones has been in contact with TDSbut has received no reply to an email requesting an opportunity to discuss the TDS property in Meriden with company officials. It was suggested we explore hosting a charette at some point to develop a conceptual framework and also to involve the community of Plainfield in arriving at a consensus on what action to pursue or recommend to the selectmen.

We hope to gather more information for our next meeting, August 16th, 7pm at Meriden Library

Minutes for Meriden Village/Library Study Group Meeting 8/16/16

Attending: Dewey Jones; Brad Atwater; Amy Lappin; Mary King; Mark Pensgen; Cindy Heath; Shawn

Rogers; Steve Taylor.

Meeting at 7pm in the Meriden Library

1. Read the minutes from last two meetings. Added a note that Hunter Ulf from KUA participated in our last meeting and suggested a planning charrette and contacting Plan NH.
2. Discussion continued on multiple uses of library and the essential need to update the building to comply with ADA. It was noted that the library does not appear to be in a flood zone area according to maps in the town office. Among the uses we have already noted for the library it was suggested that potential exists for it to be a place for possibility of bus stop for transportation between Claremont and Hanover; a site for an ATM machine; and other uses such as after school program; book club; meeting space for clubs; yoga group, etc.
3. We further discussed the next step will to continue to connect with officials at TDS in Wisconsin; to further gauge the situation with the Meriden Grange building and to contact Plan NH to determine what goes into organizing a charrette, costs, who participates, what they need from our committee, etc. Rod Wendt will contact them for the next meeting.
4. It seems at this point that our first priority will be to move toward the library becoming ADA compliant and what the best scenario for that will be. The committee asked Mary King and the trustees to give the committee an idea of what is needed in the building and what will best serve the community. What needs to be in a library that is ADA compliant?
5. Next meeting September 20, 2016 at Meriden Library and agenda will include: Dewey reporting back from contact with TDS officials in Wisconsin; Mary & Trustees report on building requirements; Rod report on Plan NH; Brad Atwater reporting on current post Office requirements for minimum square footage; update on flood plain.

Submitted by Dewey Jones 8/17/2016

Minutes for Meriden Library/Post Office Committee

Location: Meriden Library

Date of Meeting: 20 September 2016

Attending: Dewey Jones, Mary King, Rod Wendt, Amy Lappin, Shawn Rogers, Brad Atwater, Steve Taylor

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dewey Jones reported on conversation with TDS Property Manager in Wisconsin. TDS will not compromise on its policy of securing access to buildings holding switching equipment, this is a security issue for TDS and is not a negotiable issue. However they are interested about any development near their property and might be willing to negotiate about right-of-way issues.
2. Shawn will be checking into property lines and looking into traffic pattern plan/plans.
3. Mary King presented her report on what the Meriden Library needs to make it an effective facility which needs of all library patrons. There was a discussion about the space needed and it was consensus that we should do some cost studies to consider an additional 2,000 sq. feet to include ADA access to all spaces; ADA compliant bathroom; a flexible meeting space, with possible separate entry; small kitchenette; reading space; office space near circulation desk; comfortable reading area (on floor-children story time); children's section with separate areas for teens, school aged, preschoolers; 2-3 computer work stations.
4. Rod Wendt offered report on his research with Plan NH for a charrette later in the year. A planning charrette costs about \$5000. We decided to approach the Tasker Fund to help fund the charrette and to approach the Selectmen about supporting the process of a charrette with funding.
5. It was decided to approach the Selectmen and get on their meeting agenda as soon as possible to keep the process moving forward. Dewey will speak to Steve Halleran about getting on their agenda.
6. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, 7pm at Meriden Library to report back on Selectmen's meeting and Shawn Rogers will facilitate a "Bubble" Plan Diagram session.

Minutes: Dewey Jones

Meriden Library/Post Office Committee Minutes

Meeting date: 11 October 2016

Place: Meriden Library

Attending: Dewey Jones; Cindy Heath; Mary King; Shawn Rogers

Discussion:

1. Discussion was in regard to the meeting last Wednesday with the Selectmen in reference to going ahead with the application to the Tasker Fund for \$2500 to help fund the charrette for a study of Meriden village. We want to be clear that the charrette will help develop a broad perspective from Plainfield residents and all concerned community boards for developing a center for Meriden village. We want to make clear that the charrette is not about a design for the library but an overview of what we may envision the future of Meriden village to look like. We definitely want to look to the future in regard to the location of a post office for Meriden.
2. Dewey read a draft letter requesting a grant from Tasker Fund and those attending thought it was fine as written with a few minor edits.
3. It was suggested that we begin putting together some conceptual drawings and perhaps a preliminary model of what we have been thinking about and discussing in regard to making the Meriden Library ADA compliant. Shawn will work with Brad, Mary, and Amy in the next few weeks to put together some drawings to help understand the scale of any project that we recommend to the Selectmen and the Town. This might include three options or ideas for making the library more accessible. We as a committee need to get a sense of scale as we work toward a report for the Selectmen by the end of December.
4. NEXT MEETING: November 15, 7pm at Meriden Library

Meriden Library/Post Office Committee Meeting

Date: 15 November 2016

Place: Meriden Library, 7pm

Attending: Dewey Jones; Amy Lappin; Rod Wendt; Mary King; Brad Atwater; Steve Taylor; Steve Halleran arrived at 8:15

Old Business:

1. Read minutes from October meeting
2. Discussed letter requesting grant for the charrette

New Business:

1. Discussed what we action we might pursue if either the grant was denied or Plan NH did not approve our application. It was the consensus of the committee to pursue a charrette style meeting on our own with people from the community if possible about pursuing/discovering a long-term vision for Meriden village.
2. We discussed what option or options we might be presenting to the town at town meeting for further exploration. We need to gather further information about what would be expected costs for making the Meriden Library an ADA compliant building that provides the necessary services that will meet the needs of its constituents and patrons. We will begin to gather ball park figures that will give everyone a sense of the scope and scale of any project. The committee understands that there is money currently set aside for a building program and before there is a request for any future request for public funds, there will hopefully be a plan in place to seek private funds from concerned individuals through a fundraising program.
3. The committee also discussed putting together a report to the Selectmen on what we have done over the last several meetings, what we have discovered and what we recommend.
4. We also discussed the post office issue and recognize that there are some possible or potential openings for the post office to be located somewhere in Meriden village. We believe that the sense of the community at Town Meeting was that Plainfield should not pursue becoming the landlord to the USPS. However, we also believe that the town might help facilitate or encourage a private entrepreneur to build a structure in Meriden village that would house the post office. We have had a conversation with a TDS official in Madison, Wisconsin that the TDS switching building is not a possible solution for office space.
5. We will begin to put reports together and gather figures and a recommendation for our **next meeting, January 10th, 2017.**

MINUTES FOR MERIDEN LIBRARY/POST OFFICE STUDY GROUP

Meeting: January 10, 2017

Place: Meriden Library

Attending: Suzanne Spencer; Amy Lappin; Mary King; Brad Atwater; Rod Wendt; Steve Taylor;

Dewey Jones

AGENDA:

1. Reviewed work done up to date and status of charrette. Read message from Steve Halleran following Planning Board Meeting and desire to more narrowly define the subject area for a planning charrette to study.
2. Discussed Shawn Roger's conceptual model of Meriden Library and the issues that need to be addressed in making Meriden Library ADA compliant. There was a concurrence that the next steps should be undertaken by a building committee that should be named by the appropriate body, i.e. Library Trustees or Selectmen.
3. Most of the meeting was dedicated to thinking through the work we have done to make recommendations to the Selectmen in writing our final report.
 - a. Recommendation to form a building committee to resolve problems at the Meriden Library.
 - b. Recommendation to pursue acquisition of the building and land of Meriden Grange and to establish a memorial recognizing the significant contributions that Meriden Grange made to Plainfield and New Hampshire.
 - c. Recommendation that the Town of Plainfield further develop relationships with abutters to the Library/Grange properties, including Tariki Stoneware; TDS; Thom's Tavern; The McNamara family; and the Aidron Duckworth Art Museum.