

# **DRAFT**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004  
OYSTER RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL – MULTIPURPOSE ROOM  
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES – PUBLIC HEARING ON LIBRARY ISSUE  
7:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Malcolm Sandberg; Neil Niman; Gerald Needell; Karl Van Asselt; Peter Smith; Mark Morong; Arthur Grant; John Kraus; Annmarie Harris

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Todd Selig, Minute Taker Victoria Parmele, Members of the Durham Public Library Board of Trustees, and interested members of the public

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Sandberg called the meeting to order.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

***Councilor Grant MOVED to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Kraus, and PASSED unanimously.***

Chair Sandberg said at the request of the Library Board of Trustees, Town staff had arranged for this venue at the Middle School in order to accommodate a larger crowd. He said that although the hearing could not be telecast live, it was being recorded on videotape for future telecast.

Chair Sandberg said that prior to opening the hearing, the Library Trustees would make a presentation on their proposed concept for a new library. He then introduced Town Administrator Todd Selig.

Administrator Selig said that at the Town Council meeting on June 24, 2004, the Trustees made a presentation on their choice for a library location – the Town Hall site, and requested the support of the Council on this choice. He said it was decided at that meeting to solicit input on this at a public hearing.

He said the focus of the public hearing was two questions: What were the thoughts of tax payers concerning the town hall site; and were residents ready to support the funding of a new public library.

***Councilor Kraus MOVED to open the public hearing. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Grant, and PASSED unanimously.***

Chair Sandberg introduced Doug Wheeler, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Wheeler thanked everyone for coming, and said the efforts the Trustees had been engaged in for some years was more than simply about selecting a site, and building a permanent, affordable home for the Town library. He said it was also about pride of community, acknowledging a special town history as well as a distinctive history of public libraries in New Hampshire, and about a community working together to achieve a worthy, enduring goal. He noted that the first public library in Durham preceded UNH by four decades, and provided additional history on this.

Mr. Wheeler said the Trustees and the Council should work together on this, because the library would provide a positive impact on present as well as future generations. He noted a previous poem he had written about Durham, as a community, and said this project would make the community even better than it already was.

He said that since 1996, the library had been in a rental space, and said this rent would go up to \$60,000 by 2005. He said the library had outgrown this space, and said the search for another location had been ongoing for several years. Mr. Wheeler said the Town Hall site was chosen unanimously, the main reason being that it provided the potential to develop an identifiable town center, as recommended in the 2000 Master Plan. He then introduced the members of the Library Board of Trustees: Cynthia Cote, Luci Gardner, Suzanne Loder, Catherine Leach, William Schoonmaker, Julian Smith, Albert Frost, and Lois Unterborn.

Mr. Wheeler said the old Town Hall was on the proposed site, and said this location was one of the last vestiges of the original town, and was near the Oyster River. He said he believed the Library belonged there in order to anchor an identifiable town center, and said there was no other site like this in Durham. He said the site was beautiful, access was good, and said parking could be accommodated. He provided details on the proposed design, dimensions, and cost for the Library, and said the Trustees believed the proposed Library could be located on the site without requiring additional land.

Chair Sandberg again stated the two questions being asked that evening: was the Town Hall site appropriate; and to what extent should the Town raise funds to build such a building.

**John Aber, 4 Sumac Lane**, said he had been involved with the Town Library from its inception, and noted it was interesting that an entirely different Board of Trustees since the proposal for a new library had first been made had come to the same conclusion as previous boards. He said he supported the Trustee's choice 110%, said this choice was the most suitable and cost effective solution, and said he hoped the Council would give it its enthusiastic endorsement.

He also noted that he had researched previous discussions from the time when the Town library separated from UNH, and said there was no promise as to exactly what the yearly

budget would be, on into the future. He also said he did not believe the Council would be bound to such a thing anyway.

**Kathryn Brunet, 7 Hampshire Avenue**, said she supported the choice of the Town Hall site, and said the Library was an important part of the community. She said library employees worked for relatively little money, and also said a new library would bring more families in, noting that many residents sometimes had to go to libraries in Dover and other towns. She said the present rent being paid could be applied to a mortgage, and said money for the library could come from fundraising in addition to some increase in taxes. She said she was willing to pay some amount more for taxes, and said she believed the current proposal was not far from making good financial sense.

**Tom Merrick, 7 Canney Road**, thanked the Council for letting the public express its views concerning the proposal. He spoke about his fond memories of the library he went to when he was a boy. He told of his experiences with reading, and how he had become very active in class thanks to his enjoyment of library books. He said that was what he would like kids to be able to experience at an appropriate library in Durham.

Mr. Merrick said he thought the Town Hall site was excellent, and said he loved the synergy between the Court House, Historical Society, Town Hall, and Library. He said if a library were put closer to the University, it would get lost, and would look like a University building. He said that any change to the Town Hall lot that would make it less suitable would be a bad mistake, for example, if it got thinner so lost some depth, or if there were a right of way.

He said he believed it would be necessary to issue a bond for the library, and said the whole Town should therefore vote on this in a warrant article. He said that when he was in Atkinson for several years, it was his understanding there were state standards for the size of a library and the amount of spending that was appropriate for a particular town. He asked what the current state standards were regarding what Durham should be doing.

Chair Sandberg asked if there was a Trustee who could respond to this question.

Mr. Wheeler introduced Michael York, the State Librarian, noting he was a former UNH librarian, and a resident of Goffstown.

Mr. York noted there had been a rebirth of libraries in New Hampshire. He said the belief among some people that libraries were no longer relevant was simply not true, and said libraries were community centers in many New Hampshire towns. He said there were more libraries in the State than there were McDonalds, and provided details on operating budgets and per capital costs for libraries in several NH towns. Mr. York said that currently, Durham had a budget of \$142,000, which worked out to \$6/per capita.

He said that although Durham's original library went way back in time, it was essentially starting over when it separated from UNH. He said the logical approach was to rent space at first, but said it was a natural evolution that the library now needed more space. He said he

was not present to tell residents what they needed to do. But he said his experience working for the State and the University gave him perspective on this evolution. He said that where the library was to be located was a decision for others, but said he could speak for the important community services that an adequate public library could provide for the Town.

**Art Guadano, 24 Pinecrest Lane**, said he was around when the Town had the forethought to purchase Wagon Hill, and said the same kind of wisdom was needed in this situation. He noted he had been the co-chair for the Downtown section of the Master Plan, and had also been a Library Trustee. He said that when he first started working for the Board, they were looking at other facilities, and determined what their needs were, including the need for spaces at the library for community meetings. He noted that although the present configuration was tight, it would allow for parking.

He provided a detailed history of the process the Board had gone through in considering and developing a design for the Town Hall site. He said Trustees saw that locating the library there would provide an identity for the Town, and would provide an adequate space for the Town Hall, the Court House, and potentially other uses. He said the design that was developed would create a town green visible from two entrances to Town. He said it was important to look beyond the immediate need for the library, and to consider how redeveloping the site could help create a sense of community, which was now so lacking.

He said developing a Town center as part of the library was strongly supported in the Master Plan, noting that there had been many discussions about this. He said the investment needed would be for more than a library, and said the Town needed to decide whether creating a sense of community was worth that extra cost.

**John Applegath, Church Hill Apartments**, said he had lived in Durham for 10 years. He said “Live free or die” meant live tax-free or die, and said that taxes were, as Oliver Wendell Holmes said, what citizens paid for a civilized society.

**Phyllis Heilbronner, 53 Mill Pond Road**, said the proposed library site was the most sensible idea. She said her biggest concern was crossing Route 108, and said she hoped that issue would be looked at carefully. She also asked what the timeline was for the library project.

Chair Sandberg asked if the Library Trustees had a response concerning the traffic safety comment.

Susan Loder, a Library Trustee, said Route 108 had been a concern for her too, but said she had made significant progress in her thinking on this. She noted that in other countries, traffic lights were set up specifically for pedestrian crossings, and said this should be considered for this location. She also suggested that some kind of pedestrian bridge over Route 108, or tunneling under Route 108 could be considered. She said enforcement of the speed limit, and signage to show that this was a significant crossing, could also be used to slow traffic.

Administrator Selig explained, regarding the timeline for the library, that this evening was the time to get input from the public. He said the Council's decision would be made at its first meeting in October, and if this proposal were accepted, the library would then move through the budget process. He described in detail how this process would unfold, explaining that the timeline would extend to the end of the year, if construction were to begin in 2005. He said the timeline would be longer if building wouldn't begin until after 2005.

**Katie Ellis, Coe Drive,** said putting Town money toward a mortgage sounded like a good idea. She said there wasn't enough space for the book collections, and various programming activities, and said it was important to move forward soon. She said she had been surprised to hear that this process had been going on for 7 years. She said she liked the Town green idea, and said she was willing to pay more in taxes for this. She also asked how long a bond for the library would last.

Administrator Selig said a bond was typically issued for 20 years, but was sometimes shorter or longer depending on the project. He said a library bond would probably be for 20 years, and said that depending on the money raised by fund raising, the bond amount would vary.

**Bill Drapeau, 4 Sullivan Falls Road,** said he had been at the Town garage on occasion moving books around. He said most people didn't realize that approximately 6,000 books could not be housed at the present library location, and noted that many of these books were stored at his own house as well at other homes in Durham. He said it was time to move on to a new building at the Town Hall site.

**Martha Anderson, 6 Chesley Drive,** said she wanted her kids to have access to those 6,000 books.

**Noreen Hyde, 47 Emerson Road,** said she supported the Trustees' proposal. She also noted, concerning the traffic issue that she and her family sometimes walked to the landing at the Oyster River and said crossing Route 108 had not been a problem.

**Bill Hall, Smith Park Lane,** said that when the proposal was made to leave the University, it was carefully stated that Trustees would never look for more money than they had at the time. He spoke about the history of the separation of the Town library from UNH, and said it was not a good deal when this happened. He said he was concerned that there would be significant parking problems at the Town Hall site if the library was built, and said unless Smittys was turned into parking, there was not enough room at that location. Mr. Hall noted that one of the reasons the Town moved away from University library was because of a lack of parking.

**Ted Guttr 23 \_\_\_\_\_** said the question as to whether the library should be built had yet to be discussed. He said he was there to represent the silent majority of taxpayers, and said the library was a luxury the Town could not afford. He said the only people who would be able to walk to the library would be those living in the faculty neighborhoods, and said the Town should avoid taking tax money for the library.

He said the present, substantial town library would have to do at present.

**Katie Ellis** disagreed with the comment that only those living in faculty neighborhoods would be able to walk to the library, and noted other neighborhoods that would be within walking distance.

**Chris Regan, 16 Little Hale Road,** asked what other towns similar in size to Durham had for libraries, and how these were funded.

Susan Loder provided the following 2002 data:

Plymouth. \$208,000 – for 6,000 people

Raymond \$177,000

Exeter – \$609,000 for 14,000 people

Lee – \$111,000 for 4,000 people

Hanover \$790,000 for 10,000 people

Board of Trustees Chair Wheeler noted that the Hanover library had a large new addition. He said the town paid for all the operating costs, but said the building addition cost \$5 million, which the Board of Directors was raising with the help of the Town.

**Leo Hession, 7 Noble K. Peterson Drive,** said it was unclear what the new library would be used for. He asked if it was for young people; if it was something to compete with the University in terms of research facilities; or was as a source of nonfiction books for adults (which he said was already met sufficiently by the private sector). He said that each potential use involved different considerations, and said it was hard to make an evaluation as to whether the community needed the new library without knowing these things. He also asked what kind of buildings they were talking about building and maintaining on an annual basis.

**Bill Schoonmaker, Library Trustee,** said the Trustees wanted the library to serve as much of the community as possible. He noted that they didn't want the library to compete with the Diamond Library and other libraries at UNH, but said they wanted to provide one for children, the elderly, and residents who couldn't get to the University libraries. He also noted the significant Internet access that would be available as part of the library. He said there was a need for all of these things, and said with the plan that had been proposed, there was the opportunity to build, from the ground up, a facility that could meet all of these needs.

Mr. Schoonmaker then used a site plan to describe the proposed layout of the library. He noted that teens would come to the library, and needed their own space. He said a small computer room that was planned probably needed to be larger, and also explained that the library had been designed to reflect the fact that more square footage was needed per child than per adult. He said the library had been designed to work for all generations, and said they were also looking ahead at least 50 years, to meet the needs of future generations.

**Todd Campbell, 9 Faculty Road,** said this was the time to issue a 20-year bond for the library, because it would be dirt cheap. He said he was a fiscal conservative, and didn't want to throw his money away on rent. He noted that he grew up in the Town of Brewster, on

Cape Cod, and said he could still go back there, and think about the kind people who had helped him learn to read and enjoy books. He said that as a fiscal conservative, he saw a lot of people in Durham paying a lot in taxes who weren't getting that much for them. He said this was the time to get the bond.

**Jane Kaufman, 19 Oyster River Road,** said she found the figure of \$6/per capita extremely embarrassing, and said she hoped that all of these smart people would figure out a solution.

**Susan Newman, Little Hale Road** said that a friend of hers had recently visited, and asked if Durham's library was a satellite library. Ms. Newman said that when the decision was made to separate from the UNH library, she had spoken at the public hearing about the money she had to pay to use the Dover library. She said she was still paying this money, because there were things one just couldn't get from the Durham library now because of its size. She spoke about a woman she knew who had sold her property in Durham, and was now living in Keene. She said this woman said she loved Keene because of its sense of community. Ms. Newman said that although she ran into people at the grocery store, there was really no town center in Durham to meet fellow citizens. She said the proposal to have the library near the Town Hall, as part of an identifiable town center, was a wonderful idea, and said she hoped citizens and the Council would all support this.

**Judith Spang, 55 Wiswall Road,** said she had been involved in the separating off of the Durham library from the UNH library, and said she would like to agree with what had previously been said regarding the figure of \$47,000 per year. She said those involved at that time were worried that they would be misquoted in the future, and said they tried to make it understood that this amount was all they would ask for initially, but they would reassess this figure in the future.

Ms. Spang said she had been on the Planning Board and several Master Plan committees, and said the desire by residents for a sense of community was something that came up repeatedly. She said there was a need for a community center, and said the Master Plan explicitly stated the need for a library to serve as the center of town social life. She said she had talked to realtors who told her that when potential residents came to Durham, they asked to be shown the town center, and specifically ask to see the town library.

She said that when one drove through a town and saw a beautiful library, it marked the town character. She said that if they all were to look at Durham the way that people from the outside did, they would see that Durham was a classy place, and would see that the present library did not reflect that. She said that after seven years, it was time to do something about this.

Ms. Spang said it was time to start looking at getting an impact fee for Durham, noting that the statutes said that one of the things one could do with these fees was to put them toward a library, which was considered a part of the town infrastructure. She said it was appropriate that new people in Town should help pay the bill for the library. She said the Town should look at the new library as one of the things necessitated by growth.

She applauded the present Board of Trustees for bringing this issue to a head, but said she also wished to acknowledge the vision and labor of many other people in the room over time, whose efforts may have been forgotten. She said these people had proven that they had the will, commitment energy and vision to make this happen, and said this pointed to a hopeful future for the library. She said much of the funding would be able to be raised as a result of this level of commitment, so that the expense didn't all fall on taxes.

**Dale Matheny, 21 Pinecrest Drive**, noted that some of the funding for the library could probably be obtained from private foundations, given the level of involvement and commitment that had been demonstrated by members of the community.

**Emily Behrendt, 27 Edgewood Road**, said she thought of a library as a grand building, and said the Town deserved to have its own building.

**John Applegath** said that he spent a lot of time in the periodicals section at the UNH Diamond Library, but said he was fortunate in being able to walk there. He said a browsing area for periodicals was very important for the community. He also noted that the technology for film and video was now so cheap that it would be possible to put together a film room and hold weekly films series. He said the Town should be ahead of the curve on this, and not just be what libraries had always been.

**Marjorie Smith, 100 Piscataqua Road**, said she had been the Chair of the Board of the Durham library, and said it was with great excitement that the Town moved into its present facility. She said the lease deliberately said that it would end at the start of the new millennium, because it was hoped that the Trustees would work with the Town to quickly find a library site/design that was worthy. She said that differences of opinion were natural, and noted that she spent a lot of time in Concord, where she was surrounded by naysayers. She said it was great to hear – yes, we can do this.

Ms. Smith said she hoped that with the energy in the room, the Trustees would see this as a vote of confidence, and would get pledges of support for the construction of the library. She said it should be shown that the people in the room were literally willing to put their money where their mouths were. She said that meanwhile, the Councilors could go through the difficult job of weighing competing demands, most of them quite worthy, in order to figure out what they could ask of the citizens, and what the Town could reasonably afford.

She said that if one looked at all four components of the tax bill, the town portion was a small part of the overall bill. She noted that the Council had tried to keep that portion down, while at the same time the school and county budgets were going up because of a decrease in State funding. She asked that Library Trustees solicit pledges to demonstrate that if the Council committed to moving ahead, private funds would come in to make sure that there would not be an increase in town costs for citizens to pay.

**Laura Potter, 1 Deer Meadow Road**, said the questions that evening were whether the proposed site was the right one, and whether the citizens would support the library. She said she was not convinced about either the site or the budget, because she did not feel she had



enough information to make a decision, and asked for some history on the selection process. She also suggested looking for alternative funding for the library.

Mr. Wheeler said the Trustees had looked at 24 other sites, - on Madbury Road, Main Street, the Mill Pond Center, etc. He said the main problems with the various sites were the unavailability of many of them; the high cost of many; their location; and their suitability based on lot size and topography. He also said it was often difficult to get answers as to whether property owners were willing to sell. He said that considering everything, the Trustees decided the Town Hall site was the best one available, and certainly realized it was a strong choice in an economic sense.

Library Trustee Cynthia Cote said the Board's preliminary capital plan indicated that an increase in operations would require one additional staff person, as well as an additional \$20,000, but said this would be offset by the savings in not having to pay rent.

**Warren Daniel, Palmer Drive**, said there came a point when one needed to trust the elected officials, and said the Trustees had done a lot of homework. He said he had tallied up the yes's and no's so far at the hearing, and it was 16 to 2. He also said he had tallied the Councilors according to their previous comments, campaign literature, and private conversations, and the tally possibly came to 6 to 3. He said he believed there was overwhelming support for the library.

He noted he was on the committee to recommend breaking away from the University, and said he agreed that the \$47,000 figure was not meant to be permanent. He also said it was important to stop renting, and said the Town needed a meeting space for community events. He said a sense of community was desperately needed. Mr. Daniel said he was on the community development steering committee as well as the downtown committee for the Master Plan, and said both committees talked about the library, and the urgent need for a sense of community in Durham. He said he believed the new library would serve this need.

Mr. Daniel said the original question was whether locating a library on the land adjacent to Town Hall was a good use of that space, and said he thought it was. He said using an outlying location for the library would be a big mistake, and said a sense of community was needed in the downtown area. He said that 65 cents/\$1000 valuation was an excellent use of taxes, and challenged Trustees and the Council to put the library proposal on the ballot for the following March.

**Peter Pekins, 10 Beard's Landing**, said he had grown up in a town where the library experienced a fire, and said that as the building burned, he saw people running in to it to pull books out. He said a library generated passion, and said Durham presently didn't have a lot of this. He said that to suggest that the timing was poor was an excuse that happened year after year. He said that if they all had the courage to go forward, they would find that the Town was full of passion.

**Helene Jones, 2 Stevens Way #1**, said she was a UNH graduate, and now worked there. She said she knew the Town well, and said this library was badly needed. She said it would

provide many benefits, some of them presently hard to see, in terms of a sense of community. She noted the old Shaker saying that many hands make light work, and said that many owners would make light expense. She said a sense of shared ownership should be extended to the entire population, so that regardless of income, one could get a book. Ms. Jones asked that if there were a lot of people in Durham against this library proposal, to please speak out, because she said she didn't hear them that evening at the hearing.

**Katie Paine, Durham Point Road,** said that her goals as a Council member had been DCAT, the Town listserv, to keep taxes down, and to build a library. She said she considered the fact that the last goal had not been achieved to be a personal failure. She said the Council had debated this and auxiliary issues at length, and said the debates had gone on forever. She said it was great to hear a broad base at the hearing saying the same thing, and asked that there not be another four years of not making a decision on this issue.

**Ted McNitt** said he didn't think anyone at the table believed that police, fire, roads, schools, were not essential services, but said he want to add one more essential service to the table, - a Town library. He said it was ridiculous what families in Durham got for their taxes, and noted much of the Town portion of taxes went to support services needed because of the University. He asked that the citizens get one essential service that would be for the benefit of the families of Durham.

**Katie Wheeler, 27 Mill Road,** said she was totally in favor of the location proposed, and said there needed to be a combination of Town and private support to build it. She said it was important that the Town invest in it in the library in order to encourage private investment. She also said surveys of Durham consistently indicated that there was no place for teenagers to gather, and nothing to do after school, and said a library could answer a heartfelt need of high school students, especially if it included a specific place for them. She noted that teenagers in Dover found a real home at their library.

**Linda Spaanenburg, 26 Fitts Farm Road,** asked if the design for the library included a basement, which could be used for a number of things. She was informed by the Trustees that the design did include a basement.

**Ruth Moore, 17 Bucks Hill Road,** said that when she came to Durham 20 years ago, she was told that Durham had the biggest library in the State. She said UNH was a great place to do research, but said she liked fiction, and couldn't get many books like this at the Durham library. She said the existing library was already doing a lot of positive things, but said it had the potential to do much more.

Tom Merrick said he arrived in Durham in 1954, and noted there were 6 gas stations then in the vicinity of Route 108 and Main Street. He said there was talk back then about getting more land for a town center. He noted some recent books that spoke about social capital as the wealth a community had that couldn't be built with a Visa card. He noted that one of the books talked about how a branch library in Chicago was placed between two disparate communities, and had helped bring them together, thus building social capital. He said a library for Durham could also build social capital.

Chair Sandberg asked if Councilors had any questions for the Trustees that might generate additional comments from the public.

Councilor Grant clarified that if one used the correct year round population of Durham - 7,000, the per capital construction cost would be more than was previously quoted.

Bill Hall noted a skating rink project some years back, where Town staff did not ensure the integrity of the footings for the skating rink. He said he had not heard an answer to his question about the adequacy of parking, and said this situation could very well be the present version of the skating rink.

**Julian Smith, Library Trustee**, said concerning the parking issue, that they needed to think of the whole community. He said if there were no land swap, there would be space for 54 cars, but said there was additional parking available near the library and Town Hall for those who needed it. He noted there was an empty bank parking lot at night across the street, as well as an area along Mill Pond Road that was not usually used at night. He also said he had recently arrived early for a meeting at Town Hall, and had parked over by the landing at the Oyster River and had a pleasant walk past the Three Chimneys Inn to get to the Town Hall.

He said there were many opportunities for parking within easy walking distance of Town Hall, and said if the Town wanted a sense of community, he thought they would be able to work out this issue. He said he hoped that parking would not be seen as a killer issue. Noting that one of the reasons for the break with the University was the lack of parking, he asked that everyone get beyond this issue.

Bill Schoonmaker said regarding the parking, that the Town code required that the Library have one space per 500 sq. ft., which meant 25 spaces. He said the Town offices required one space per 250 sq. ft., - 24 spaces. He said the key was to schedule activity at the site to not happen all at the same time. He said it didn't make sense to pave over more area in order to allow for nights when there were multiple events, and said it did make sense to schedule activities. He provided details on how this scheduling could be done, noting among other things that the Court House was only used during the day, and parking needs for Town staff weren't that significant.

**Elise Daniel, Palmer Drive**, said she had served on the Board of Trustees, which turned over about a third of its members every year. She also noted turnover in the Council, and of properties in Town, as well as other factors that changed over time. She said there was never a best time to do something, but said that the people were interested to have something on the table now.

Councilor Kraus said there seemed to be a tension among the competing criteria for the project – aesthetics, square footage, technology, etc. He asked the Trustees how they would weigh these different criteria, and asked what they wanted most.

Mr. Schoonmaker said the Trustees had tried to design a library that the Town deserved,- one that included all of these things. He said that if Councilor Kraus was saying the Town

couldn't have all these things, and that the community didn't deserve them, the Council needed to say this to the Trustees. He said the Trustees were simply presenting what the Town needed from a library for the next 50 years.

Councilor Needell asked where the figure of \$500,000 had originated.

**Luci Gardner, Library Trustee**, provided details on this. She said that originally, the Trustees thought they could commit to raise more than that, but had lowered the figure somewhat. She said the Trustees thought if they could privately raise \$500,000 and then add \$350,000 they had carefully saved to that, they would have more than 800,000, and thought the rest could come from money from the CIP and from bonding. She said if the Trustees could raise more money than \$500,000 that would be great.

Ms. Gardner said she had lived in Durham for a year, and said when she saw the sad library, she decided to work hard for it. She spoke about some of the excellent programs at the library, but noted that some could not be held there because of space limitations. She said a separate children's space was badly needed. She said the time had come to draw a line in the sand, and said that although the Town Hall site was not a perfect site, it was a good site, the best that they had. She said it was a wonderful location near the river, and said the garages were an eyesore, so could only be helped by the library. She said they would do better than \$500,000 if they could, but said the present \$50,000 in rent was a heavy burden.

Mr. Wheeler introduced the director and staff of the present library: Gus Hedden, Director; Laura Matheny, Children's Librarian, Nicole Moore, Library Assistant, and Margaret Thrasher, Library Assistant.

Chair Sandberg said the Council would take the comments received at the hearing under advisement, and said that at their meeting in the near future, this would be a topic of great interest and discussion.

***Councilor Kraus MOVED to adjourn the meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Grant, and PASSED unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Victoria Parmele, minutes taker