



Response from Trustees and Foundation Board to questions posed by Select Board - for September 9, 2019 Select Board Meeting

Lindsey Marziaz, President of Trustees - email: Imm.trustee@gmail.com
Roger Gingrich, President of the Foundation Board - email: roger.gingrich@gmail.com
Kris Pavlik, Treasurer, Foundation Board - email: krispav@aol.com

Please provide a copy of the Foundation's 2018 IRS form 990 (tax-exempt organization financial information form)

(Separate document included)

1. What portion of the total project budget is the reserve or contingency?

10%

2. What is the total amount billed for work by the architects to date?

\$17,300 for adjustments due to removal of basement

\$ 825 for expenses related to presentations

\$18,125

- a. What portion of that amount is for revisions from the project proposed at Town Meeting in 2019?

\$0 – no changes

3. What is the total amount billed for fundraising to date (fees paid for feasibility study and capital campaign work)?

Feasibility Study - \$15,500

Advanced Phase - \$51,000

Community Phase - \$24,000

\$90,500

The Foundation Board has agreed to hold promotional costs to under \$5000 from campaign funds for 2019-20.

4. What funding source(s) has (have) been used for work billed (architect and fundraising)?

Architect – Campaign Funds



Feasibility Study - Campaign Funds (Foundation Board Members)
Community Phase – Campaign Funds (Foundation Board Members)
Advanced Phase – Barrington Library Trustees

What is the total pledged support?

\$490,907

a. What are the commitments or timelines of the pledged money?

2019	\$ 72,459
2020	\$150,038
2021	<u>\$ 26,283</u>
	\$248,780

The figures provided are the campaign fundraising funds only. They do not include the monies received from the Trustees (including the \$8k from the Swain endowment and \$47,078 from the Trustees for Sandra Mitchell, consultant). The funds from the Trustees are not considered campaign fundraising funds.

5. What is the total collected support?

\$242,127 - year 2 pledge reminder letters go out in September.

6. Provide a list of all grants applied for including amounts received and committed.

AWARDED:

- OPL Charities - \$10,000 granted; (formerly Wentworth Charities; a Portsmouth based charity for education and select disease research)
- Saul O'Sidore - \$2,500 granted; (a memorial charity started in 1974 in Bedford - education)

NOT AWARDED or NO RESPONSE:

- Samuel Hunt Foundation; no online presence; for children recreation and sports
- Madeline G Von Weber Trust; supports environmental/conservation, music and arts, social services
- Cogswell Benevolent Trust; Henniker shoemaker/manufacturer; started 1924 - supports homeless shelters, etc.
- McIninch Foundation; supports education, with emphasis on higher education; support also for the arts and cultural organizations, community funds, Protestant churches, environmental programs, and land acquisition and preservation



- Hesed Foundation - no response
- Demoulas Foundation - no response

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

- Federal (Seacoast) Savings Bank – applied \$50,000 as a matching grant; awarded \$15,000
- Citizens Bank, Chinburg Properties, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Frisbie Hospital, (both have local services in Barrington), and Interventional Medicine

PENDING:

- McIninch Foundation Grant - \$25,000, 2nd attempt
- Eversource Grant
- NH Humanities Mini Grant

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS:

- Federal (Seacoast) Savings Bank – applied for a \$50,000 matching grant; awarded \$15,000
- Citizens Bank, Chinburg Properties, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Frisbee Hospital (both of which have local services in Barrington) and Interventional Medicine – declined

Of note, the BL Foundation with the Campaign Leadership Council has worked in a historically unparalleled fashion throughout 2018-9 to raise funds to mitigate the tax impact of this project on the community of Barrington. Along with the practical effect of reducing the bond request, we feel this “skin-in-the-game” activity may result in a favorable effect on some citizens.

One facet of fund-raising the Foundation and Trustees have discussed in detail is that of approaching the Select Board for their consideration in regard to access to the unexpended fund balance. This source of funds for building a town library has been used in other communities. We have felt near-uniform support from the SB for this project and have received explicit encouragement from at least one SB member to engage the SB in discussions about access to those funds and that we are prepared to do.

7. What is being done to change the mind of opponents?

Excellent and key question!

The Foundation and Trustees of the Barrington Public Library have done extensive 'post-mortem' analyses of the 2018-9 promotion strategies for the new library and community center leading up to the March 2019 vote with the intent of learning what should be done differently in anticipation of the March 2020 vote.



We have also communicated with the staff of several NH town libraries which sought new space but failed in their first attempt but subsequently succeeded.

None of these considerations have reached the conclusion that gaining a supermajority in 2020 rests with "changing the minds of opponents" in large numbers. Clearly, opponents just like supporters are not a homogenous group of individuals and the degree to which each individual either supports or does not will vary across a wide spectrum. So, perhaps at the fringe of the group who oppose the new library may be a few who could be swayed to vote yes next March. And, very importantly, a significant swing in our approach to the Barrington voter MUST bear in mind that 54% of voters supported the proposal put forth, so we do not want to lose supporters who were on the line but voted yes.

We heard questions focused around the cost of the project and the need for a new library and community center or even the need for a library at all in Barrington. We also recognized that voter turn-out was only 31%. Each of these three items requires the focused attention of the Foundation as we move toward the March 2020 vote.

1. As a prologue to discussing the cost of the proposed project, we ask the Select Board to note that the Building Committee, Trustees and Foundation Board President will be meeting on Sept 4 with the Construction Manager and SMP Architects to review their most recent recommendations for lowering the costs without compromising quality and or our size requirements. This meeting was scheduled as early as possible and we will forward the specifics of this meeting to the SB as soon as possible.

Regarding cost (2019 cost estimates were based on projected 2020 costs): the Trustees, Building Committee and SMP architects have gone over and over the plans versus a 2008 Needs Assessment report (recommended 17,000 sf for a library in a community our size; we are at 13,120 sf as a consequence of concerted attention to the cost issue), the deficits in the current facility size and function, the input from library staff and the input from community discussion groups (the 54% positive 2019 vote). In short, while changes have been made in the quality of the shingles and the HVAC, none of such alterations will have a significant impact on the ultimate cost in the face of rising material and building costs; perhaps, reduced interest rates will, in the end, balance the 2019 and 2020 cost estimates. In short, the Foundation and Trustees feel that more explicit detailing of the cost justification (FAQ section of our website has been redone) and focusing on these details in public events will be useful to some Barrington residents.

A corollary aspect of cost is the tax impact which for many is the critical 'cost issue'. We have redone our BLFound.com website regarding "Funding" and



"Q&A" sections with increased emphasis on the proportional relationship between a resident's property value and their tax amount. And, with respect to the proposed new library and community center (and, based on the 2019 bond request) the tax impact would be approximately \$32 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. A table is present on the website to more easily see this relationship. A second important feature to be stressed about tax impact is that since the Middle School bond will be retired in 2021, the taxpayers will experience no meaningful increase in their tax bill - just a swap of one for the other. So the cost of the Library in taxes will be offset by the elimination of the cost of the MS bond.

2. We recognize that producing a convincing justification for a public library and community center for community family, friends and neighbors can be difficult and such carries some inherent risks. Taking an academic approach, i.e. providing a fact-based justification (and this approach has been taken by such experts as Professor Eric Klinenberg in his 2018 book, *Palaces for the People*), while highly useful to some, can be off-putting or offensive to others, particularly when scientific studies (in large measure the backbone of the Klinenberg book) are regarded with suspicion. Opponents who generally do not rely on fact-based knowledge in their approach to their personal affairs likely do not frequent the library and, therefore, do not recognize the need for a library. Nevertheless, the Foundation has sought new and innovative ways to express the manner in which many Barrington residents have found the library indispensable in raising their children from the initial exposure to 'children's story time', in ways parents or grandparents have met and made valuable new friends, in ways like-minded individuals of the community can come together to learn about the night sky, permaculture, painting techniques, use the library IT personnel to better understand their computer or make online applications, engage in book clubs or recreational activities or the old-fashioned use of the library to better themselves in some way with the acquisition of new information, etc. Showing the value of public library and what it engenders in the way of social capital and infrastructure to a significant fraction of the community, might help opponents reflect on what their opposition means for themselves, their family members friends and neighbors, perhaps, leading to a change of heart for some. Our 'billboard' at the intersection of rt 9 & 125 with articles in the local press, our online presence, a Foundation Newsletter, a promotional library model in the First Seacoast Bank, public education-focused events and a planned neighborhood, door-to-door campaign and a public presentation by author Marilyn Johnson (*This Book is Overdue*) are or will be part of our move to keep our supporters and, hopefully, convince a few opponents to join in support.

3. We think of critical importance for the 2020 vote will be voter turn-out. We are counting on all of the above to energize our supporters to make every effort to get to the polls and convince like-minded family, neighbors and friends to do the



same will have a significant increase on voter participation. We have created a database of supporters and are working hard to increase that in order to target supporters with information about what the Foundation is doing, to encourage recruitment of new potential or real supporters and to remind supporters of when and where the 2020 vote is to occur. We are compiling neighborhood support groups to seek out and encourage support. In an innovative fashion, we are putting together a mock election for the children of the community to be held the same day as the March 2020 municipal election. The election will be for favorite animals/pets for some made-up offices. This will be promoted through the schools and PTA. Children may vote for their favorite "candidate" on election day and at the BMS voting sight, but only after their parent(s) have voted. Two goals: one to teach them something about why/how we vote and, second, to bring their parents to vote.