

April 9, 2015

Notes from a Special Town Board Meeting held Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: William B. Ferebee, Supervisor, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Absent was: Paul R. Martin and Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilmen. Also present were 6 Members of the Keene Valley Library Sub-Committee for Building.

Mr. Ferebee called this meeting to order at 5:30 PM. He said that Bill Reed had approached him requesting this meeting to present the Keene Valley Library's plans for renovation.

Mr. Reed began by giving a little background on their objectives to this proposed renovation and said they are just looking for a little feedback.

He said the next phase is to demonstrate feasibility saying they would need to launch a capital campaign.

He showed the Town Board a couple of designs, explaining that the plan called for moving the entrance to the area near the front desk. He said this would serve to make the large front room a quieter space for those looking for that.

He said the other big change calls for an upstairs to be added to the area in back. He said this would be a meeting space which could accommodate 50 people. He said an elevator is included in the plans.

He said that raising the funds could take up to 3 years and construction could take 1 ½ years.

Mr. Ferebee asked if they thought parking would be a problem.

Mr. Reed said he doesn't think parking is or will be a problem, but they will think about it.

Mr. Smith asked what the neighbors thought about the second story.

Mr. Reed said they haven't really talked to them yet.

Mr. Smith suggested using the meeting space at the Nature Conservancy as an alternative.

Mr. Ferebee asked about their idea for a game/video room.

Mr. Reed explained the idea of having a large screen which multiple game players could compete on by using their laptops.

Mr. Ferebee said it would be nice to be open to that.

Marcy Neville spoke about the archive area and what an asset that is. She asked Mr. Reed if there were any plans for improvement to that area.

Mr. Reed said the only plans for that area is to insulate it saying it is cold in there. He did say that that environment could be more highly controlled.

There was an explanation given on the "robot room" and what that club area is about.

Mr. Reed explained that going further with these plans depends a lot on community involvement. He said they need to have some major pledges in place before they go to the public with fundraising.

He said the next step is to present their plans to the Library Board and to form a Planning Committee.

With all discussion finished, the Board thanked Mr. Reed for his presentation, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
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William B. Ferebee, Supervisor
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Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
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