

Minutes of November 6, 2019
Wolfeboro Heritage Commission Meeting
Wolfeboro Town Hall - Annex

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 by Chairman Stier.

Present were Cindy Melanson, Suzanne Ryan, Maggie Stier, Anne Blodget,

Maggie asked Alana Albee of the Libby Museum to lead off the agenda. She gave a full progress report and important background about the Libby. Key highlights are:

- the Libby is the only natural history museum in NH
- At 107 years old it was founded in 1912 by Dr. Libby
- He left the Museum to his heirs but to insure the future of the Museum he specified in his will that the Museum ownership would revert to the town
- In 1956 the town took ownership
- His will also stipulated that the Libby would be open every summer unless closing was needed for maintenance.
- As early as 1990, it was recognized that restoration would be required to better steward the collections and maintain the building and mitigate the disrepair.
- The Museum had about 4,000 visitors in 2019
- The 2019 warrant article funded a restoration feasibility study by the architectural firm Alba
- The building assessment estimated 2.1 to 2.4 million would be required to complete restoration and the proposed addition
- In September of 2019, the Board of Selectmen were presented with the plan
- \$978,000 in donations/pledges have been raised
- 16 grant applications have been filed
- The current annual operating cost is \$44,000.
- The post-renovated annual operating cost would be an estimated \$54,000.
- The next warrant article will present the public /private partnership and will indicate the privately raised funds and request the voter to approve the balance required to meet the 2.1-2.4 million total project cost
- The new addition will include HVAC, collection storage, new entrance, small office, kids learning area, and this will open up the main floor as it was in the past.
- The Biber Foundation funds will fund 2/3 of the cost of the addition.

Maggie asked if the Libby will continue to hold Governor Wentworth Mansion artifacts and asked if they would welcome additional artifacts from the archeological excavation currently stored in Plymouth. Maggie also mentioned that the Libby's National Register status could make federal funds available if the Libby creates a regulatory historic district. Lynn Monroe was suggested as a consultant to help make this happen. Wakefield has been very successful in getting Federal funds using this approach. Maggie went over old business on the agenda, including the charrette status, WHC budget, and winter/spring lecture plan. Since the charrette plan is in Matt's budget, we will work with him to get the formal request submitted ASAP for optimum response.

At 6:35 the motion was made to adjourn (Cindy Melsnson, seconded by Anne Blodget).

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Blodget
11/6/2019