

**Lydia Taft Pratt Library  
Special Meeting  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by library Chairperson Lyle Holiday at 5:30pm. Attending the meeting (from the library) were Dena Marger, Linda DeCarlo-Burns, Stacy Bryck, Stacey Kripp, and Dave Schottland. Select Board member Thomas Nolan facilitated the meeting.

Guests: Dummerston Community Center board members Randy Hickin and Lester Dunklee, members of Lydia's Friends Sam Bledsoe and Catherine O'Callaghan, Select Board member Skip Fletcher, and various community members

- Thomas began the meeting by giving a short recap of the previous meeting and explaining the purpose of this meeting (to discuss the future of the library and community center, what sort of board might exist, and the name of the organization).
- Community member Lou Kern proposed having the entire first floor be used for the library (all three rooms). Thomas responded that at the last meeting it was agreed by everyone that the Meeting Room would not be used for the library.
- Dave asked Tom what name is being considered for the new organization. Tom responded that one idea is the Dummerston Community Library.
- Lydia's Friends member Sam Bledsoe indicated that he was not thrilled about the idea of using the late Governor Dummer's name. He would like to keep Lydia Taft Pratt in the name.
- Thomas shared that Select Board Member Todd Davidson (who was not present) said that it's important to him to have "and" in the name (i.e. Dummerston Community Center and Library). Todd also believes that the Meeting Room should be reserved for community-related events. It was also shared by Thomas that Todd would like the Select Board to appoint the new board. Town Clerk Laurie Frechette (attending via Zoom) pointed out that library trustees have to be elected.
- LTP librarian Dena Marger shared that libraries run community events as part of their programming.
- Returning to the topic of the name, a few attendees shared that they like "Dummerston Community Center and Library."
- Sam Bledsoe pointed out that a library *is* a community center.
- Community member Molly Stoner shared some names generated by AI (which were not recorded by the secretary).
- LTP board member Dave Schottland shared the name "Dummerston Library and Community Center," giving some emphasis to the library as it takes on a larger presence in the building.
- Sam Bledsoe responded by recapping what has been happening over the last year, in terms of some neglect by the DCC board not keeping the building tidy (e.g. empty bottles found outside, bathrooms not cleaned), and how the library wasn't hearing back from the DCC board about some of these issues.

- A community member who teaches piano in the Meeting Room shared a variety of things the DCC board has done to improve the building over the last few years.
- LTP board member Stacy Bryck shared that she loves what the DCC has been doing for the community over the years, but that nothing will be lost with a new board. The same types of activities and programming will carry on.
- Thomas Nolan proposed that a vote take place for who will be on the new board.
- Community member Beth Shulman said that everyone will have to adjust and change, not just the DCC board.
- Molly Stoner acknowledged all the work that has been done by the DCC board over the last few years, as well as their accomplishments going back almost thirty years at the DCC's beginning.
- Lydia Taft Pratt Community Library was proposed as a new name.
- Lydia Taft Pratt Library and Community Center was proposed as a new name.
- Thomas shared that before getting involved with the library he did not realize that the library was the town's library (he believed it was a private library).
- LTP board member Lyle Holiday shared that keeping Lydia Taft Pratt in the name is important to her.
- Thomas suggested having two names for the organizations but also a third name for the new organization.
- Randy asked if there is there is consideration for hiring someone in a paid position to act as director of the building. Linda responded that this might be a consideration, so that someone will reliably be taking care of some of the day to day operations. She followed up that volunteers come and go, whereas someone in a paid position has more of an incentive to show up.
- The Views editorial member Roger Turner shared that The Views is associated with the DCC (they are a committee of the DCC). So if the DCC is disbanded it would affect their nonprofit status. It was pointed out by a community member that the DCC has not had official nonprofit status for several years.
- A community member who is on the board for Green Mountain Camp pointed out the camp has one board that assumes all operating responsibilities, similar to what was being discussed what might happen at the DCC/library.
- Lyle suggested that one current DCC board member join the new board.
- Randy asked about the proposed structure of the new board. Linda responded by sharing that a new structure was proposed in the operation proposal she wrote.
- Randy stated that he will be contacting Todd Davidson to have the DCC's lease terminated, effective 1/1/2026.
- Molly Stoner shared more about the accomplishments of the DCC and suggested that everyone give Randy and Lester a standing ovation. They were given a standing ovation by those present at the meeting.
- Randy asked how soon there can be one entity running everything. Thomas responded that the Select Board will soon be discussing this.
- Thomas proposed the new meeting to be on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.
- Gail Sorenson asked when the Building Bright Futures grant ends, expressing concerns for where the money will come from after the grant is finished, especially if the library is running the building. Linda responded that it has ended, and several people pointed out

that the money the library has been paying in rent to the DCC over the years is money that has been and will continue to be used to pay for building operation costs. Linda also suggested that a capital fund will need to be started for larger building repairs that might be needed.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:00.