

October 28, 2017

The Stonington Board of Selectmen attended a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Free Library at 11:00 a.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Selectman Mike Spellman was absent. Also present were members of the public and press.

The Stonington Free Library held a meeting to discuss the library's strategic plan for the future which began at 11:06 a.m. Mr. Nick Kepple, president of the library's board of trustees led the conversation entitled "A Path to a Reimagined Library" with goals including extending the reach of the library into the community, restoration of the library's physical and digital spaces; and, to ensure fiscal sustainability for future generations.

In response to a question from Mr. Harry Martin regarding funding, Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella commented that:

- The Stonington Free Library [SFL], like Westerly and Mystic Libraries, is a non-profit that is carried in the budget as an "outside agency;"
- Unlike Waterford and East Lyme libraries, SFL is not municipal and so it is not funded on a municipal budget line;
- The Town of Stonington has been under budget pressure from the state which has made it impossible to increase the operations & maintenance for any of the three libraries;
- The Town of Stonington is happy to consider capital investments; and
- Make recommendations to the Board of Finance for increased annual budget allocation.

A motion was made Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m.



Robert R. "Rob" Simmons
First Selectman