

Marlene J. Riddle

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“WITHOUT PREJUDICE”

Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S.
Uxbridge, Ontario
L9P 1T1

Re: General Purpose & Administration Committee
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 10:00 am
ITEM # 7.2.2 – Report RC-12/24 of Amanda Ferraro

Further to the one question that I was allowed to address to Council, additional comments as follows:

1. According to the “On-Line Survey Results”, it is apparent that the residents opinion of relocating the Zephyr Library to the Zephyr Community Hall, under “improve Library Services to the Zephyr Community” is definitely not what residents want. 42% of respondents were “very satisfied” and 19% were somewhat “satisfied” which totals to 61% and 70.95% stated “make changes to the current Library”. This should lead the Township to rethink the proposal entirely. Why spend more money on moving the Library and go with spend money on refurbishing and doing necessary improvements as needed, such as new entrance doors to enter the building and refurbish the one restroom for assess ability; replace old carpet, freshen up the inside of exiting library with painting the walls and shelving.
2. As far as a Well goes, according to Ontario Well Records, there was a 13’ deep dug well with 36” concrete casing on the south side of the library building but is now shown as “abandoned – other”. Also, the solution was to run water from the Church to the Library which is now an issue. Township records should indicate when this was done since there would have been an invoice to fill in this original well and piping from the Church to the Library. A copy of these invoices/reports is requested by resident. Solution now is to drill a new well with maximum cost range under \$25,000 (this should be lower since the Library already has a pressure system in place).
3. If additional Pre-School/Youth/Adult Programs are needed and since there was no question in the survey that clearly identified what these programs should consist of or be, these could be held in the Zephyr Community Hall by an organization or individual by renting the Hall and charging a minimal fee for residents attendance to insure they would attend on a regular basis. There is nothing in the survey as recommending these would be viable programs with residents attending and would not distract from Library use which is expected to be a quiet environment.

4. 75.17% were "very satisfied" with the current Zephyr Community Hall
5. 69% stated moving the Library to the Hall would not increase any additional use.
6. In walking the current United Church and Zephyr Library, one survey stake at the south west corner of the church property is very visible. Maybe it would be advisable to send someone from the Roads department to locate and mark the other survey stakes so actual property lines could be determined. In saying this, it would be clear as to where the United Church property ends and the Library property starts. If the claim the Library has no parking, why did the Township pay \$12,000 in 2023 for snow plowing the Library parking lot? Please advise if this contract was tendered or just given to a company without any competitive quotes?
7. Before any more money is spent on this, WRITTEN QUOTES should be received by the Township for residents to review and comment on prior to any decision being made.

In attending the meeting, I have been waiting for the minutes of the meeting to be published to the Township Council meeting website but as of yet (October 14) has not been posted so my comments at the meeting are from memory only at this point. I believe what I heard from Council was something to the effect that part 1 and part 2 of the "Recommendation" in the "Report LB-02/24 of LB 02-24" be received and that part 3 be "no more money be spent at this time and be sent back to Staff Only" and that "since 2025-2026 budget proposal was in the upcoming months, that should be considered at that point".

It is my opinion that it is better to spend approximately \$50,000 on the existing Library (located in the centre of the Hamet) for necessary improvements than to spend \$400,000 or \$500,000 or even \$1,000,000++ on moving the library to the Zephyr Community Hall / Park.

I look forward to receiving answers to the questions contained in this letter.



Marlene J. Riddle

