

Trustees seek grant for library study

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LYNNFIELD – Library trustees are urging Town Meeting voters to support a warrant article that would allow them to assess the facility's long-term options without spending any town money. In a recent conversation with the Lynnfield Weekly News, library trustees Faith Honer-Coak-

ley and Kerry Haughney joined library director Nancy Ryan in discussing the significance of the grant to the library in the long term.

In recent years, the library has been working on a long-range plan with a focus on identifying the future needs of town residents, as well as its own space and building needs. One important function of this grant is that it would help

determine whether further down the road the library should have a new building or whether the existing one can be sufficiently renovated.

“(The grant) does not obligate us to do anything in any way, except to complete the grant,” said Ryan, who also noted that the article was supported by the selectmen and finance committee. Since the article is 18 out of 23 on the town warrant, trustees are also urging residents to actually stay at the meeting long enough to be able to vote on it.

“It’s actually such a big opportunity for the public where we don’t expend any of the town’s money,” said Haughney.

The library can receive up to \$50,000 from the state grant, and must also have 50% matching funds – which are reportedly already on hand. If Town Meeting voters give the go-ahead on the grant, the library then expects to learn around mid-June if it actually got the competitive grant funds. From there, library officials expect that another crucial round of state grant funding – this time involving library construction funding – would come up in fiscal year 2016 or 2017.

Ryan also reported that library staff “did an enormous amount of work” in getting this far in the grant and long-term planning process, as well as analyzing the current building.

“I can’t say enough about the staff and their contributions to this,” added Ryan.