

Firm hired for library project

By DAN TOMASELLO

LYNNFIELD — Newburyport-based Design Technique, Inc. has been awarded the owner's project manager (OPM) contract for the proposed library building project.

Nine firms applied for the contract and seven met specific criteria in order to be considered for the project. Library Director Nancy Ryan informed the Villager three firms were identified and were interviewed in one day over the course of five or six hours. She said Design Technique stood out from the rest of the firms.

"I am very excited to be working with Design Technique," said Ryan. "(Design Technique President) John Sayre-Scibona and his team have done at least 17 public libraries. They had an extremely well presented proposal. They are extraordinarily knowledgeable and we had a feeling they would shepherd us through this complicated process. They have superb intrapersonal skills and we felt they would be a good fit."

According to Town Administrator Jim Boudreau, the Library Building Committee (LBC) recommended Design Technique, Inc. to the Board of Library Trustees. The Library Trustees then recommended Design Technique to Boudreau, who awarded the contract to the firm. The selectmen voted 3-0 last month to authorize Boudreau to award the contract after the Library Trustees recommended a firm.

As part of the library building project, Ryan said Design Technique will manage the proposed project, which she noted is the firm's specialty.

"The other firms we looked at offer architectural services, OPM services and some even do construction," said Ryan. "John only does OPM work. They will help us get the bids together, get the bids out and choose contractors and subcontractors. They have proven to be extremely helpful so far."

Design Technique served as the OPM for 17 library projects across the state. The firm served as the OPM for the

7/29/15
Villager

Boston Public Library/Mckim Building, the Christa McAuliffe Branch Library in Framingham, the Flint Public Library in Middleton, Georgetown Public Library, Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, Harvard Public Library, Haverhill Public Library, Merrimac Library, Milton Public Library and the Millis Public Library.

The firm also served as the OPM for the Newburyport Public Library, the Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester, the Sherborn Public Library, Shrewsbury Public Library, Walpole Public Library, Westwood Public Library and the Woburn Public Library.

"They are just devoted to public libraries," said Ryan. "They exceeded our expectations."

Design Technique is being funded in part by a \$50,000 building and design grant the library received from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners last year. The library is also using \$25,000 of its own money, as required by the Board of Library Commissioners, for the OPM.

"No town money has been used at all," said Ryan.

Since Design Technique was hired, the firm helped the Library Building Committee put together a request for qualifications (RFQ) as part of the procurement process to hire an architect, which is the next step in the library building project process.

"We sent out (the RFQ) and had 29 requests for a copy, which is

very good," said Ryan. "They have until Friday, July 31 to submit a bid. At that point, the Library Building Committee and Design Technique will get together and will start reviewing applications, weeding them out and hopefully bringing (the bids) down to three or four."

After the LBC identifies three or four firms to be considered, the architectural firms will be in-

terviewed. Ryan anticipates an architect will be selected in either mid to late August.

According to Ryan, a design of either a new or renovated library needs to be completed by next February, so the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners can review the project. Library officials have estimated the town could be reimbursed between 40 and 50 percent by the state if a

new library is built at a different location but the town would not be reimbursed if a new library were built at its current location due to insufficient parking.

Ryan said its library officials' goal to present the library project to voters at Town Meeting next April.

"It's our goal to go to Town Meeting to get approval next April," said Ryan.