

Architect hired for library project

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V. Williams

By DAN TOMASELLO

LYNNFIELD — The Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously on Aug. 27 to select William Rawn Associates as the architect for the library building project.

The Library Building Committee interviewed William Rawn Associates and three other firms for the architect/design services contract on Tuesday, Aug. 24. The architectural firm will be tasked with the completion of a schematic design for a renovated library or a new facility in a new location.

The three other firms interviewed were designLAB, Oudens Elio Architecture, Architects, and Jonathan Levi Architects. There were nine firms that submitted bids.

After the public interviews were conducted, the Library Building Committee recommended William Rawn Associates to the Library Trustees on Aug. 27. After the Library Building Committee met, the Library Trustees deliberated and voted unanimously to award

the contract to William Rawn Associates.

"They are a premier architectural firm in the United States," said Library Director Nancy Ryan.

According to Ryan, library officials will be negotiating the design fee with the architectural firm.

William Rawn Associates is an architectural firm based in Boston founded by William L. Rawn III. The firm's notable projects include award-winning buildings such as Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, the Cambridge Public Library, W Boston Hotel and Residences, Temple Beth Elohim, the Carneros Inn, the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance at Williams College and the Music Center at Strathmore (Maryland).

The firm also designed the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library and renovation of the Boston Public Library's Johnson Building.

The firm has won nine American Institute

of Architects National Honor Awards and has been ranked first, second, third and fourth by the Architect Magazine in the past five years.

Ryan said the Library Building Committee and Library Trustees were impressed by William Rawn Associates' presentation during the firm's public interview.

"Their presentation was superb," said Ryan. "They showed us a tabletop-model they developed of three or four small designs for the Reedy Meadow golf course that involved the barn, stone walls and pine trees that are quintessential New England. They want to incorporate those elements into a design that would pay respect to Lynnfield's history."

Selectman Chris Barrett, who serves on the Library Building Committee, said the committee was impressed by William Rawn Associates' presentation.

"The interviews were very informative," Barrett told the Villager. "William Rawn As-

sociates really stood. It's an exciting project they are proposing."

Ryan said a final design for a renovated or new Lynnfield Public Library will be completed by January or February.

This has been a busy summer for the library building project. Newburyport-based Design Technique, Inc. was awarded the owner's project manager (OPM) contract for the proposed library building project earlier this summer.

William Rawn Associates and Design Technique are 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 project.

Ryan and Barrett both noted library officials will begin a community outreach program for the project soon.