



**Brooks Free Library
Board of Trustees**

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From: Linda Cebula, Chair *lcc*
To: Joseph Powers, Town Administrator
CC: Donald Howell, Select Board Liaison to the Library Board of Trustees
Lincoln Hooper, Director, Dept. of Public Works
Subj: Re-purposing of Funds in Article 31 of the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting
Date: October 11, 2023

Article 31 of the May 2013 ATM appropriated \$ 25,000 for carpet/flooring. It was one of three submitted by the Library Trustees for this purpose prior to the centralization of facilities maintenance in the Dept. of Public Works (DPW). These funds did not need to be utilized for the major carpeting project completed in 2015, so the plan since then has been to utilize the funds to replace the ceramic tile floors in the seven restrooms at the Library. The Facilities Manager recently reviewed the condition of the restroom floors and reported that while the tiles appear dull, they are structurally sound and won't need replacement for many years.

Based on this information, the Trustees voted on Oct. 4th to recommend that the funds in Article 31 of the May 2013 ATM be re-purposed at the May 2024 ATM to supplement the \$90,000 in Article 12 of the May 2019 ATM for repair of the brick sidewalk at the Library including the replacement of the two trees along Main Street with species whose roots do not damage sidewalks. DPW is currently managing this project. We understand that additional funds will be needed to complete the project. Re-purposing the funds from Article 31 of the May 2013 ATM would help defray the costs and reduce whatever amount DPW needs to seek in additional funding.

Replacement of the two trees is an integral part of the project we submitted. Failure to replace the trees would be a major change to the streetscape in the heart of the Harwich Center Historic District and would undoubtedly encounter a great deal of public opposition. McGinley Kalsow's Exterior Assessment Report, available on the Library Trustees page of the Town website, provides details on the species of trees appropriate for areas adjacent to sidewalks and it is important that those species be selected. The trees must also be of sufficient height so the canopy is above the height of passing vehicles. We understand this could be expensive, so it is our expectation that re-purposing the \$25,000 in Article 31 of the May 2013 ATM for the Library Sidewalk Repair and Tree Replacement project will ensure the tree replacement work is not eliminated from the project. Any remaining funds can then be utilized for the overall project, thereby reducing whatever additional amount of funding DPW will need to request to complete the project.

Please advise if additional information is needed. The Trustees are ready to submit the article to re-purpose these funds for consideration at the May 2024 town meeting.