



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 5.

DATE OF MEETING: May 5, 2014

REQUESTED BY: Mary Ann Mintier, Vice Pres., Topsail Township Friends of the Library

SHORT TITLE: Urging Support of the Proposal to Reserve the Northwest Area of the Old Historic Topsail High School Property for the Future Topsail Regional Public Library

BACKGROUND: The Friends of the Library Board strongly supports the renovation of the old Topsail School for the Pender County Office Annex. Centered between the Onslow County and New Hanover County lines, the site is highly visible with good access from Hwy 17 and Hwy 210, two main roads of eastern Pender County. The remodeled school building, located in the heart of eastern Pender County, will speak of a proud tradition that honors education.

For all these reasons the site also meets the criteria of a good and logical location for our new library. Pender County owns enough land at the site to build a library and we can find no better location. The library would be enhanced by its proximity to other county services and the new library adjacent to the old Topsail school would embody Pender County's continued commitment to education and the lifelong development of its citizens.

Mike Taylor made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on January 22, 2013 about designating a site for a future public library at the old Topsail school site and the minutes reflect a general acceptance of that request, although not a vote. The minutes state, ". . . following the discussion, the board gave a nod to move forward with the concept Mr. Taylor presented for the Old Topsail School."

- It has been a year and we request at this time for action by the Board of Commissioners to designate that a specific amount of acreage be reserved for a library and not developed or sold for another purpose.
- We acknowledge that the strategic plan and the size recommendations for a new library facility should be revised in light of time passed and changing circumstances.
- A location needs to be reserved so the new library can eventually join other county services in this one excellent location. This opportunity should not be lost.

A resolution is on the agenda today, May 5 from the county library director and supported by the Advisory Library Board of Trustees asking you to designate and reserve the northwest portion of the old Topsail High School property fronting U.S. 17 as the future site of the Topsail Regional Public Library. This is roughly the old ball field site. We strongly urge you to take action and vote in favor of this resolution.