

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Library Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Resolution in Support of Keystone Grant for Belmont Hills Library

Prepared By: Director of Libraries, David Belanger

Date: March 17, 2017

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board: Approve resolution to accept a Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for library construction to partially fund the renovation and expansion of the Belmont Hills Library.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration: The Board of Commissioners approved a resolution for submission of the grant in July. Upon award of the grant, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries required a clarification of the Township assurances. Specifically, they require that resolution include a statement that the building “serve undisturbed as a library for a period of at least 50 years”. The revised resolution includes that statement.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable): The original resolution was based on the resolution used in the successful application of a Keystone Grant for the Gladwyne Library. This revision was reviewed by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and was found to be acceptable.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information: The Belmont Hills Library is the sixth and final library to be renovated in the Township. The library was built in 1969 and has had no major upgrades to the facility since it opened. This project would provide fully accessible restrooms, and an entrance convenient for the physically disabled. It will also provide improved staff workflow and a meeting room for the public. Improvements in lighting and HVAC systems would increase the energy efficiency of the building.

An initial Letter of Intent was submitted to the state library. The Letter was approved and Lower Merion Township is now able to submit a formal application. The grant was approved earlier this month.

Keystone grants are not offered on an annual basis. They are usually offered on a biennial basis. To meet the timeframe of the grant process, the project was delayed approximately 6 months from its original schedule to meet the grant timeline.

V. Impact On Township Finances: This is a matching grant of \$500,000 and will reduce the Township cost of the project.

VI. Staff Recommendation: To adopt the revised resolution agreeing to the grant guidelines and authorizing the Township Manager to proceed with the grant contract process and submission of bidding documents to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.