Library Disaster Recover Meeting
July 18, 2023 9:am

Present: Jan Andrus, Alan Turnbull, Ann INgerson, Vince O’Connell, Susan O’Connell

In the flooding that took place overnight July 10-11, 2023, approximately 9” of water came into the basement. Following is a recap of actions taken and recovery steps yet to take.

**Solar Battery:** The bottom of the battery was submerged in water for an unknown amount of time. Vince O’Connell was called and he disconnected the battery and contacted the company, Fortress Power. They declared the warranty on the battery null and sent a diagnostic tool to see how the battery function was affected. On July 16 we ran the test. Initial indication is that the battery may be functioning normally at this time, although we are waiting for confirmation from the company.

The company will send a letter with the results of their analysis. If the letter providing the results is ambiguous about the viability of the battery, they may also provide a second letter that makes clear that the battery’s warranty is void and the value of the battery is considered lost. This may be needed if we pursue disaster reimbursement funds.

After drainage remediation (see below) was completed or in process, Vince located and transported a pallet jack, and was able to raise the battery 11” of the floor and block it with wood.

Vince will be leaving town on or around July 22. While we can still contact him if issues come up, Rusty from Ivers Electric will be our local source if further action (such as reconnecting the battery, or system abnormalities that Vince can’t talk us through) is needed.

*Action items: (Vince or Rusty) reconnect battery if possible, waiting for advice from Fortress.*

**Drainage/Sump Pump:** On Wednesday and Thursday a crew of volunteers led by Ned dug a better drainage ditch, put in drain pipe, and filled with gravel delivered by Jake Emerick. This will route water from the roof away from the basement door. Regrading was also done on the north side of the building, and improvements made to the swale on the west side of the building.

Susan purchased a sump pump and hose but the float was too high on the pump. Vince will send Susan a link to a pump that will be correct, and Susan will order it. Once the pump arrives it will need to be installed, with the hose going out the north side of the basement, dumping water away from the building.

Vince spoke with Susan after the meeting, and suggests that a simple drainage solution would be to drip a hole by the door at the base of the foundation and run a pipe sloping down away from the building which would rely on gravity to drain the basement.

*Action items: (Susan) order pump. (Ned? Steve?) install pump.*

**Disaster Recovery Reporting and Funds:** Ann filed a report with 211. Susan filed a report with the Department of Libraries. Ann initiated a claim with our insurance company, which was denied as we are not insured against flooding. This step is necessary if we file for FEMA funding.

As a public entity, the library is eligible for FEMA funding, regardless of Orleans getting declared a disaster. Step one will be to attend a FEMA applicant briefing which has yet to be announced. Public entities could be eligible for 75% reimbursement from the federal government and an addition 7.5% from the state.

We want to be sure that we are not labeled a private business, as that might only provide SBA loan assistance and not the disaster reimbursement funds.

We would also have to obtain flood insurance in the future, unless we can prove that remediation efforts eliminate the need for flood insurance. Ann is getting a quote for flood insurance from our insurance company.

Possible reimbursement expenses- replacement battery, installation charge, drainage costs (gravel), possibly sump pump, propane heater inspection.

*Action items: (Ann and Susan) gather invoices for expenses, monitor for announcement of applicant briefing. File within 30 days.*

**Disposal of Refuse/Leftover Books:** On 7/20 at 9am we will have a crew of people sorting out reusable books for transport to Saint Johnsbury for Operation Paperback, recycleable paperbacks for disposal at All Metals in Hardwick, recycleable hardcovers for disposal at Stowe Dump, refuse for disposal at All Metals, cardboard taken by Allison.

*Action items: (Allison) move cardboard, (Susan) coordinate volunteers to sort and transport.*

**Heater:** The propane heater was partially submerged during the flooding. Fred’s sent a technician out after the meeting and verified that the heater is still functioning properly.

**Basement Lock:** Discovery of the flooding was delayed because people were unable to get the key to turn in the basement lock. Alan eventually got it to work. Steve Moffatt had put in WD40 several weeks ago which helped for awhile. Vince put in WD40 again on 7/17 and it now works fine. Vince recommends adding marine grease.

*Action item: Susan will get marine grease from Willeys. If this does not provide a lasting solution, we will have the lock rekeyed.*

**Architect:** Sandy Vitzhum has offered to meet with us at no cost to review the drainage problem. We specifically want to know what sort of drainage was supposed to have been installed. Sandy may also be able to provide a letter to document that we do not need flood insurance affirming that we have remedied the problem.

*Action item: Susan will contact Sandy and set up a time to meet.*

**State Librarian visit:** Cathy Delneo would like to visit the library later this week to offer support and look at the damage.

*Action item: Susan will inform Vince, Jan, Ann, and Alan of timing of visit.*