

Approved

**Wethersfield Library Board
Minutes of June 23, 2009**

Members present: Greg Bedula, Kim Bobin, Paul Courchaine, Susan Grady, Ralph Horowitz, Clare Meade, Jen Miglus, Polly Moon

Member excused: Brad Milvae

Others: Luci Domick, President of the Friends of the Library

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Polly Moon called the meeting to order at 7:02.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS: NONE

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

President Luci Domick reported on the Friends' book sale held on June 13. They took in about \$2108. Someone donated a book safe with bills and coins totaling \$43.

The Friends have allocated funds for Liz Kirkpatrick's retirement reception on June 25. Ascot Caterers will provide the food. The staff will pick out a gift.

Laurel added that Dolores Sassano, town clerk, put together a proclamation for Mayor Adil to read and present to Liz at the reception.

The Friends will also host the monthly B.J. Smith book discussion series, which will start on July 9.

COUNCIL LIAISON: NO REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2009

The minutes of May 26, 2009, were approved as distributed. There were three abstentions.

QUESTIONS FOR THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Laurel reported that the Town Manager unfroze \$38,200 of the \$90,000 previously frozen Library funds. New books, computers, and technical support will be purchased with these funds.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond maps will be sold at the Library for \$5 each. Publicity about them will go out in July. Speedy Printing will print a brochure, designed by Phil Lohman, that includes maps of sites from the book in both 17th century Wethersfield and with current street names and landmarks so it can be used as a walking tour. It will be given to those buying the maps.

Laurel announced that Celia Allison, who just received her Library degree from Simmons College, is leaving Wethersfield to work in Adult Services at the Farmington Library.

Laurel and Kim Bobbin attended a mission-based management workshop.

Laurel hosted a second meeting of area libraries to discuss cooperative projects.

The annual meeting of Connect was held in the Library. Twenty directors attended.

Laurel has been elected to the governing board of that consortium.

The Library has been very busy. Staff members are gearing up for July, the busiest month of the year.

Laurel distributed a list of activities in the Children's Summer Reading Program. The children's staff visited all elementary schools to explain the program.

Six hundred registrants have signed up so far for the Children's Summer Reading Program. Steve's Songs will open the program on Thursday.

Laurel distributed a circulation chart. A total of 1700 items were loaned yesterday.

The Library collected 800 items in the Food for Fines program.

Wethersfield Life published an article on Liz Kirkpatrick's retirement and her long, dedicated service to the Library.

Laurel distributed a resume of the new town manager, who will begin work on August 1.

At 7:26 Greg Bedula arrived.

Laurel is treating the staff to pizza tomorrow.

PROPOSED CUTS TO FUNDING FOR REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES

The governor's proposed cuts will have a devastating effect on library budgets.

Fliers have been composed and are being distributed by our Library and other libraries.

They are being sent out with overdue notices and hold notices and distributed to library users.

Laurel sent a letter to the Governor, Senator Doyle, and others.

Susan Grady read a letter from State Representative Denise Merrill, who assured her that she and other Democratic legislators are supportive of the needs of libraries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet recently. All paperwork has been submitted to Bank of America for a change in account signatories. The bank has not responded to this matter in a timely manner. In addition, there has been no update on account information since April. Polly Moon directed Laurel to write a formal letter to Bank of America concerning the lack of communication on the account and the change in signatories. Ralph Horowitz will contact Liberty Bank to see what they can offer.

Community Outreach

The last meeting was held on June 2. A re-cap is as follows:

Start earlier on documentation for the budget.

Donna Brown is working on a DVD of photographs. The Outreach Committee will take photos at Library events. There needs to be a place/s to display them.

In September the committee will work on an email address database.

Board members will not be paired up with Town Council members until after the election.

Jen Miglus is starting a scrapbook of letters in support of the Library.

The committee will encourage people to write letters to the editor in support of the Library.

Polly suggested inviting the new Town Manager to a Library Board Meeting.

Before the budget presentation show the Town Manager the DVD on the Library.

Maybe the Library could participate in the parade or other activity for the 375th celebration.

Board Development Committee

Greg Bedula announced that there are two Democrats who are possible replacements for him on the Library Board. The screening committee will make the selection at its next meeting.

A potential candidate for the Republican vacancy has indicated that she is not be able to serve on the Board.

Nominating Committee

Susan Grady announced the slate of officers for next year:

Chairperson: Polly Moon

Vice-chair: Clare Meade

Secretary: Jen Miglus

Kim Bobin moved that nominations be closed. Paul Courchaine seconded. The motion carried.

Ralph Horowitz moved to accept the slate of officers for the upcoming year. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

Polly Moon thanked the outgoing officers, Paul Courchaine and Susan Grady, for all the work they did. She also thanked the two members leaving the Board, Greg Bedula and Paul Courchaine, for their service.

At 8:05 Luci Domick left.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Board accepted the Library Director Job Description that Laurel had presented.

At 8:06 Susan Grady moved to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations and the Library Director's evaluation. Clare Meade seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:11 Laurel Goodgion left.

At 8:43 Jen Miglus moved to come out of executive session. Clare Meade seconded. The motion carried.

Clare Meade made a motion to give the Library Director a 2 percent salary increase for the upcoming year. Jen Miglus seconded. The motion carried. There was one negative vote.

At 8:48 Jen Miglus moved to adjourn. Ralph Horowitz seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady
Secretary

Date