

## **Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of January 23, 2007**

**Members present:** Greg Bedula, Paul Courchaine, Greg Curtin, Tracy Gionfriddo, Susan Grady, Howard Greenblatt, Brad Milvae, Pauline Moon, Karen Mortensen

**Staff present:** Laurel Goodgion, director

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Greg Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairman Curtin requested a change in the order of the agenda with approval of the minutes of the last meeting first, rather than fifth, on the agenda. The [minutes of December 5, 2006](#), were approved as distributed.

Tracy Gionfriddo arrived at 7:03.

### **RENOVATION**

Director Laurel Goodgion reported that the construction company said they would be finished by Feb. 2. There have been more workers on site working longer hours. The bid for Phase 2 went out on Sunday. The bid went out two ways: one in which the building was occupied and one in which the building was unoccupied. All bids are due on Feb. 24, after which date a contractor will be chosen. Phase 2 is supposed to be a fifteen-month project. A lot depends on what the decision concerning Library space will be. If all goes well, the Library may be in its new location by fall.

Karen Mortensen arrived at 7:07.

Greg Bedula arrived at 7:09.

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Greg Curtin reported that Lucille Plouffe, Vice- President of the Friends of the Library, requested help in setting up for a book sale in Town Hall on Feb. 3 from 10 to 2. The Friends are pulling books from three different locations. They are also looking for another storage place as time in the current one is running out.

Liz Kirkpatrick distributed a schedule of writers' workshops arranged by Karen Rider, a member of the Friends Executive Board. Liz also reported on the one-book program.

Laurel Goodgion reported that the Friends have increased the size of their Board and are incorporating with the state. The Executive Board is working very hard.

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** NONE

### **QUESTIONS FOR THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Laurel answered questions on "Budget Explanations."

There were some questions concerning weeding of the Library collection. Are libraries throwing out the classics? Are today's libraries repositories of great books or simply purveyors of popular opinion?

Laurel distributed two articles, one on the importance of hanging on to books and the other on the importance of weeding. She re-assured the Board that the Wethersfield Library is not throwing out the classics. Weeding is necessary to keep the collection alive. Collections are very carefully weeded. All weeding is checked against a standardized list. Laurel or Liz review everything that is weeded. Valuable books are replaced. If the last copy of a classic title book is discarded, a new one is ordered.

## **COMMITTEES**

Chairman Curtin said that he is looking into the formation of committees within the Board. Not much committee work has been done since the renovation began. He will bring the topic up at the next meeting. The Board will be getting ready for Phase 2 of the renovation.

## **PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2007-2008**

The Library budget is due to the Town Manager by Monday morning. Salaries have not been plugged into the budget yet. There are some newer expenses in the budget **related to the renovation**.

Five computers have been bought this year. Every year one-fourth of the computers should be replaced. Computer access needs to be added to the Children's Department.

Some laptop computers would be useful, since they won't take up as much space.

There needs to be a special Board meeting to finalize, further discuss, and approve the Library budget. Board members agreed to meet on Feb. 1.

At 7:50 Paul Courchaine moved to go into executive session. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried. At 8:27 Brad Milvae moved to come out of executive session. Polly Moon seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:28 Paul Courchaine moved to adjourn. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady  
Secretary