

Minutes
West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees
Date: December 11, 2008

Present:

Trustees: Linda Hearn, Dan Waters, Leslie Baker, Ginny Jones, Hermine Hull, Elaine Pace
Staff: Beth Kramer
Friends: Suzi Wasserman
Public: Jack Potz

Linda Hearn called the meeting to order at 7:04. Beth introduced a guest, Jack Potz, a summer resident of West Tisbury. Mr. Potz, from South Salem, NY, has an extensive background in community foundations and participated in the input session of August 2008.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of November 13th meeting were approved unanimously as amended.

Ginny reminded the trustees that she inquired whether the Maley family had been asked by the Selectman if the family would be willing to sell a portion of the property. Linda reported that the family had been contacted by Dick Knabel who learned that none of the Maley land can be sold to anyone.

Friends Report:

Suzi reported that there were no significant developments to report from the past month except that books are pouring in for the annual book sale. Ginny suggested asking dealers to pay a small fee for very valuable items that are donated for the annual sale. Suzi replied that the Friends had considered and discounted this idea. Suzi noted that, when possible, the Friends cull books of great value and sell them separately.

Director's Report:

Library visits are up 17% as compared to a year ago; Items used are up 24.5%.
Beth reported on activities ongoing at the library. She reported that the winter concert series had been so successful that it will continue into the springtime. The Mother Goose on the Loose program, grant funded, will do outreach with the MV Hospital beginning in January and February. Interest in the lifelong learning program is growing. Steve will teach computer classes on Thursday mornings. A health and wellness series will begin, led by Nancy Gilfoy, acupuncturist. A morning coffee and conversation program will begin in January.

Beth reports that Phoenix Becker has been hired to work 14 hours per week to cover staff shortages.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beth contacted the Board of Library Commissioners and presented a primer on funding: *Forming and Funding Public Library Foundations*. Dan suggests that we read this document and discuss it at the next meeting.

Jack Potz was asked by Dan to report on his prior work with foundations. Mr. Potz advised that the group look at its goals and develop a long range plan to access funds available from various donors.

Ginny asked how the foundation would interface with the Friends. Jack replied that a foundation is a separate legal entity, a financial vehicle that takes dollars and separates them from any political influence.

Elaine noted that an endowment could be tapped for operating and other expenses but that a foundation could be crafted solely to a dedicated mission. Suzi indicated that the Friends would welcome a foundation.

Dan asked that the trustees discuss the Welles property. (He was commended by the trustees for making an excellent presentation to the selectmen on November 19th.) Dan feels that there must be more compelling reasons for using the Welles property other than to increase parking for the library and to have public restrooms, both of which are town issues. Beth indicated that the trustees can walk the Welles property, and Dan reported that he had walked the property and found that experience more interesting than viewing the property on a drawing. For

example, he can see the potential for an amphitheater and a park on the property. Dan feels that the best argument for acquiring the Welles property is not to expand the library but to acquire land/potential for a park to be used by the entire town. He suggests that a committee be formed outside of the library trustees to lead a grass roots initiative. Leslie suggested that we procure an urban landscape architect who can envision the potential of the land as well as of the buildings on the land. The trustees agreed that the library alone not be the most vocal and central movers of this initiative. Ginny and Dan suggested that the Arboretum may be involved as well. Beth will be contacting the Land Bank to learn how the Land Bank may be involved. The trustees suggested that the new group also contact the conservation commission, the historic commission, and other groups who may have a stake in the acquisition of this property.

Leslie presented to the trustees samples of aprons to be considered as a fundraising project. No samples met her specs at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Beth distributed the current operating expense report, the operating statement, the budget submission, and the action plan for 2010. She also distributed copies of the policies that had been finalized.

Dan asked the trustees for corrections to the Youth Services Materials Selection Policy. With the exception of a minor spelling correction, no revisions were made. Ginny moved to approve the policy. Linda seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

Dan asked for a discussion of the Programming Policy, and the trustees reviewed the policy draft and suggested revisions. Linda called for approval of this policy, Dan seconded, and the trustees approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hermine presented a note from Ralph Franklin thanking the trustees for their sympathy upon Betty's death.

OTHER BUSINESS

Linda and Ginny reported that the town hall committee and board of selectmen are considering how to make the restrooms in the town hall operational during hours when the town hall is closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Pace, Secretary

