

MINUTES
West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
at the West Tisbury Public Library

In Attendance

Trustees: Hal Garneau, Melissa Hackney, Linda Hearn, Hermine Hull, Ginny Jones, Dan Waters

Director: Beth Kramer

Staff: Nelia Decker

Public: Nancy Cole, Barbara Day

Linda Hearn called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes

Ginny Jones moved that the minutes from the meeting of January 11, 2010 be approved as submitted. Melissa Hackney seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Foundation Update

Melissa reported that the West Tisbury Library Foundation (WTLF) is now incorporated, has assembled a board, and is reviewing its 501(c)3 application which will be filed in a week or so. The IRS has cautioned that there is a backlog in applications, but the WTLF's is fairly straightforward. Dan Waters gave a brief summary of the most recent WTLF meeting, saying that board members had begun the "silent" portion of their fund-raising in which they hoped for 100% participation from the Foundation board, Trustees, and the board of the Friends. Several Trustees asked for a list of WTLF members. Beth said she would e-mail this to the board.

Librarian's Report

Beth reported that, for the month just past, circulation was up over 8.2%, with total patron activity up 9.9%. She reported that the physical plant has recently suffered some setbacks: The central vacuum system failed three weeks ago and will cost approximately \$1,500 to fix. The heating system has not functioned properly for two weeks. Repair personnel have replaced each of the switches and two panels, with the total cost not yet known. Beth noted that some of these expenses, although probably high and somewhat unanticipated, are not inconsistent with a physical plant that is now well over 10 years old. Beth said that Michael Black has asked that the library obtain permission from the neighbors to have a certified arborist cut an overhanging branch of a tree in preparation for the planting of a tree in memory of Paula Black.

Beth listed the various workshops and meetings attended by herself and staff. She said she has invited Cheryl Bryan to come for Island-wide advocacy training. The Finance Committee will review the library budget this Thursday, 6 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. On Monday the Personnel Board took up the issue of grading of IT/Reference position and stipends/pay through grants and associated benefits. This Sunday, February 14th, Joe Keenan will play at the library as part of the Winter Concert Series. Beth also noted a much-appreciated donation from the Oyster-Watcha Midlands Association.

Selectmen's Meeting

Dan summarized the February 3 meeting of the Selectmen, which he attended along with Linda and Chuck Hodgkinson (advisory member of the WTLF). At this meeting, Chuck presented his proposed long-range timetable by which the town might undertake library construction in FY2013 and still build a police station on or before the year stipulated in the 2007 Space Needs Report. Dan had also attended the Community Preservation Committee meeting on January 20th. He asked the committee to award grants judiciously and reserve their undesignated funds, given that they may soon be presented with an important Open Space request.

Well Committee

Ginny said that progress is being made toward determining the viability and advisability of tying the Howes House into the library's well. Beth added that the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is scheduled to come in March to study the existing situation.

Facility Needs Committee

Hal announced that the Facility Needs Committee "is no more," having fulfilled its seven-month mission to prepare a Facility Needs Report. Linda thanked Hal on behalf of the board, and said she would be happy to have him chair a committee any time. Ginny moved to accept the report and Dan seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion, Melissa asked what would happen once the board accepted the report. It was agreed that in accepting the report, the board was acknowledging that the document was a fair, accurate and thorough representation of the committee's views and findings. It is not intended, in itself, to stand alone as a public statement, but rather to help the Trustees develop their own case to put before the town, in the event that they should decide to press for expansion of the library facility. With that, the board voted unanimously to accept the report.

As for the board's next step, several Trustees emphasized the importance of transparency and communication with the public. Dan cited advice from Chuck Hodgkinson, who had extensive experience with the recent Town Hall renovation. Chuck recommends that the library advertise and hold a public forum as soon as feasible to review the updated space needs. Dan said he would ask Chuck for more specifics, and invite him to the next Trustees meeting.

Bylaws and Policies

Beth asked the Trustees to approve, in total, the Bylaws and Policies that had been approved piecemeal over the past two years. Linda moved for approval, Melissa seconded the motion, and the voice vote was unanimous.

Building Program

Prior to last month's meeting, Beth had circulated a detailed building program in a format required by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The Trustees spent considerable time reviewing and revising the 40-plus-page document. Then Ginny moved to accept it and Hermine seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

New Business

Beth recounted an incident in which a minor patron reported an adult patron displaying obscene

materials on a library computer. Beth has sent the adult patron his second written warning that he will lose his computer privileges in the event of a third offense. The patron was also sent a copy of library policy.

With no comments from the public, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Waters
Clerk