

MINUTES
West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 18, 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

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

Meeting Minutes

Ginny Jones moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 20, 2010 with the correction of a small error. Hermine Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No Friends being present, there was no Friends Report.

Director's Report

Beth Kramer reported that circulation was down 3.4% but program attendance was up over 43%, due in part to Colleen's Spring Egg Hunt. Total patron activity was up 3.7% over last year. In outreach, the Windemere program continues to grow in circulation numbers and attendance. Regarding the physical plant: the painter will be at work next week, taking care of this year's quarter of the building plus the front handrails. The drainage pipe has been put in; shrubs have been cleared, and new trees and bushes have been planted,

Cheryl Bryan from SEMLS (Southeastern Massachusetts Library Services) has just concluded an RA workshop on promoting the book collection and "merchandising." There will be one more RA meeting before summer, with a wrap-up in September. Beth is currently interviewing for the IT/Reference position, with the last interview tomorrow (May 19). She will be interviewing for the summer shelver/page positions next week.

Beth said that a celebration of the life of Paula Black, longtime and beloved library staffer, is tentatively planned for Saturday, June 26 at 5 p.m. She asked that the trustees give formal approval to hold the celebration on library grounds. Linda moved to grant permission, Ginny seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Finally, Beth noted that the library has received the construction grant announcement from the MBLC (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners), and that she will meet with Rosemary Walthos of the MBLC on Thursday.

Building Committee Update

Linda reported that the building committee had met for the first time on May 6. At that meeting, Peter Rodegast regrettably resigned, citing a possible conflict of interest due to his employment at South Mountain Company, which may bid for work on the library addition. With the committee

down to six members, Linda went to the Selectmen and asked them to advertise again for letters of interest to serve on the committee. The Selectmen agreed to do so, and ads are currently in the local newspapers.

Thursday morning, from 9 to 11, the building committee will be interviewing representatives from three of the Owner's Project Managers (OPMs) who responded to advertisements. The next meeting of the building committee will be May 26, 5 p.m.

Ginny recommended that the trustees be thinking about the location and logistics of a temporary library facility during construction, saying that "some considerations are subjective." Dan Waters added that special attention needs to be paid to parking for the Howes House, which must never be impeded by trucks and machinery.

Foundation Update

Dan gave a brief summary of two recent meetings of the West Tisbury Library Foundation on May 3 and May 10. The Foundation continues to develop its print materials, website and potential donor list. There is support for a variety of approaches among Foundation members, and a good level of enthusiasm for the summer fund-raising season.

Forum Update

Dan described the April 29th forum, saying that it was well-attended with engaged members of the community. Questions and comments afterwards were constructive, and seemed to reflect a concern that the library's "message" reach fullest possible circulation. The next forum is scheduled for May 19th. Dan said that the Powerpoint presentation has been considerably changed based on feedback from many sources.

New Business

Linda noted that the Director's review is coming up. Trustees will need copies of the review form. Ginny said she had spoken to John Powers, and that the person from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had inspected the well and promised a report quickly. Ginny added that she has been pushing to have the pedestrian crosswalk lines painted in the road between the Howes House and Alley's Store. Beth said she has been asking John for traffic meter readings for that location. Hermine asked if the trustees should write a letter to this effect, and the general sentiment was that they should. Ginny said she would write the letter.

In other new business, Dan moved that the trustees authorize the library director or acting director to suspend or revoke patron Internet usage privileges in the event of policy violations without the need to come before the board. Ginny seconded the motion, leading to discussion. Hal Garneau said he had recently been to a Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) workshop and learned that under Massachusetts statutes, trustees have sole custody of the library facility. Therefore, for the director to revoke privileges, trustees need to formally authorize the director to act on their behalf.

Melissa Hackney questioned whether this conveyance of powers was necessary, given that on a daily basis the director is already enacting library policy set by the trustees. Dan expressed

concern that the suspension or revocation of patron privileges is an extreme instance that may require special authorization by the trustees. He said that the intention of the existing policy was already to empower the director to do just this, and that the motion to authorize was simply a mechanism. Melissa said she would prefer to do research with Hal on the matter. With this, Dan withdrew his motion (and Ginny withdrew her second), for discussion at a future meeting.

Finally, Beth noted a new publication called *The Complete Library Trustee Handbook*, and invited trustees to avail themselves of it.

With no comments from the public, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Waters
Clerk