

MINUTES
West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 12, 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: Barbara Day

Linda Hearn called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes

Ginny Jones moved that the minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2009 be approved as submitted. Melissa Hackney seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with the abstention of Ginny Jones and Hermine Hull, who were not present at that meeting.

Friends Report

In the absence of a Friends report, Beth Kramer informally summarized the meeting of the Friends, from which she had just come. She said it was very successful.

Librarian's Report

Beth reported that, for the month just past, circulation was up over 11%, with patron visits up 11.3%. Total patron activity was up 9.5%. She reported that the library has received 80% of the grant money requested from the Martha's Vineyard Cultural Council to support the Winter Reading Series, and that the library will make up the difference. Beth reviewed the various meetings and workshops she and the staff had attended over the past month, and repeated her invitation for any interested Trustees to attend the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in March, which takes place in Portland, Oregon. Beth noted that the Southeastern Massachusetts Library System (SEMLS) had not yet determined how it may be structured after the state's reorganization.

Following the Librarian's Report, Ginny Jones suggested that the library's report in the Annual Town Report reflect the increased usage figures. She also stressed the difficulties the town has had in securing a reliable, warm, safe place for community activities. There is concern for the safety of children walking between the library and the "old library" on Music Street. The Grange Hall is unheated downstairs and must be drained four months out of the year.

Well Committee

Ginny said that at the last meeting, evidence was mounting that it may be necessary to move the library and Howes House well. The issue of a public water source has apparently been skirted for some time, and is now becoming an unavoidable priority.

Facility Needs Committee

Hal reported that the Facility Needs Committee report is on schedule to be delivered to the trustees at the February 9, 2010 meeting. At the most recent committee meeting, members had brought all their information together, brainstormed and prioritized needs. Hal is working with Nelia and others to put the committee's conclusions into cogent form.

Bylaws and Policies

Discussion was tabled, as the trustees have not yet had time to review the collected bylaws and policies assembled over the past two years or so.

Foundation

Melissa Hackney reported that the Foundation subcommittee had met on December 11 and compiled a list of candidates. Subsequently, upon being contacted, all candidates had agreed to serve and had held their first pre-Foundation meeting on Monday, January 11. At the Foundation's next meeting, on January 25, Melissa hopes to have the members sign off on bylaws. The exact membership is still becoming clear. She added that Town Counsel strongly recommends having no crossover between trustees and the Foundation, citing boundaries between public and private organizations. However, Melissa advised appointing a trustee liaison to the Foundation, to facilitate communication. Ginny moved that Dan Waters be appointed to serve in this capacity, and Hermine Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. On the topic of conflict of interest, Ginny reminded the trustees that they must take and pass the state-mandated ethics test required of all town employees.

Dan reported that Chuck Hodgkinson, advisory member of the Foundation-in-formation and former member of the West Tisbury Space Needs Committee, had created a proposed timetable outlining the town's next steps following the construction of the Town Hall. Chuck's plan encompasses not only the library expansion but also construction of the proposed police station. Dan asked if the trustees would allow him, Chuck and Linda to appear at the Selectmen's meeting on February 3 to present Chuck's timetable in an informal and purely informational manner. No requests would be made of the Selectmen at this time. The trustees agreed that this was a good idea.

New Business

Ginny noted that space has become such a critical concern that the library now deaccessions books that haven't circulated in two years. She said the state feels that a library with a collection the size of West Tisbury's should have a minimum of 8,000 square feet. Beth reminded the board that the Building Program she had distributed must be approved at the February meeting.

With no correspondence and no comments from the public, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Waters
Clerk