

Minutes  
**West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees**  
Date: November 13, 2008

**Present:**

Trustees: Linda Hearn, Ginny Jones, Hermine Hull, Leslie Baker, Elaine Pace  
Staff: Beth Kramer  
Friends: Suzi Wasserman  
Public: Richard Knabel

Linda Hearn called the meeting to order at 7:04

Richard Knabel presented to the trustees his personal update on the actions of the selectmen regarding the Welles property next door to the library. The availability of this property is an opportunity for the town to acquire the Property, a historic structure built in the 1700's, for the town's use. Through Ron Rappaport, an offer was made, but that offer is not accepted at this time. If the offer is accepted, the proposal to acquire it will be brought to a town meeting. The property might be used for parking, for an auxiliary bus station, or for other purposes. Mr. Knabel feels that it is the role of the library trustees to generate reasons for this purchase. He informed the trustees that opposition is lining up already. Mr. Knabel could not reveal the details of the offer.

Hermine asked if the Howes House had expressed an opinion about the purchase, and Mr. Knabel said that he was not aware of any.

Beth questioned why the trustees had the sole responsibility to justify the purchase.

Elaine suggested that all stakeholders (Howes House, Alleys, the Field Gallery, etc.) be encouraged to state their positions in addition to the library trustees.

Dan questioned how the proposal would become public. Mr. Knabel replied that any proposal of the library Trustees would be presented to the selectmen. He invited the trustees to appear at the next selectman's meeting on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:40.

Linda suggested that Mr. Knabel make an inquiry at the COA to determine their opinion about this project.

The trustees discussed the misconception that the plan for library expansion is set in stone and want to be sure to clarify to the public that the "plan" is only a sketch, not architectural drawings. It is possible for the projected library expansion to go in another direction rather than as in the original proposal or sketch.

Linda pointed out that the library must solve the issue of overuse of the library restroom by the public.

Elaine asked Richard to clarify the timetable. He replied that the trustees iterate the need for a task force to consider this purchase, in the event the offer is accepted.

**Friend's Report:**

Suzi indicated that the Friends have agreed to purchase large print books, medical books, downstairs shelving, slipcovers, and other items.

Beth thanked the Friends for their generosity.

It is possible that a membership chair has been identified for the Friends.

The used book donations are going very well.

**Director's Report:**

Beth reported that the after school program for 11-14 year olds is hugely successful. The staff is

meeting to discuss management of students who appear from 3 to 6 p.m. almost daily. Safety and other issues must be addressed.

Beth has circulated the newsletter and library stats to the trustees.

Beth is working on library service improvements including the Equal Access program, a medical reference area, and health-related speakers. She reports that the staff will benefit from training through Reader's Advisory.

Donations in memory of Betty Franklin now exceed \$2000. Beth will use this money to send the staff to professional development meetings.

The copper lamps donated installed outside the library by Billy Hoff are complete and very attractive.

Beth met with Bruce Stone about our proposal budget and with the fin com about a potential retirement. A reserve fund transfer may be necessary.

Beth has been asked by Jen if the library will share the cost of lighting changes in the driveway. Linda moved that, if the Town cannot afford the \$1000 for the lights, the Howes House be required to bear part of the expense. Ginny seconded. The trustees approved the motion unanimously.

Beth delivered Colleen's report about upcoming library activities.

Dan added to the report information on the process for nominating a new poet laureate.

The holiday party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of September 11<sup>th</sup> were accepted as revised. Leslie and Hermine abstained because they missed that meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of October 23<sup>rd</sup> were approved unanimously.

#### **Old Business:**

Linda reported that a letter had been sent to the capital improvements committee regarding repair of the driveway. No reply yet.

The goals and objectives of the library improvement planning committee were discussed. Elaine moved to approve, Leslie seconded. The trustees accepted the document unanimously.

Beth informed the trustees that no additional photovoltaic panels will be installed at this time. She encouraged Shelton Bank to do additional analyses of energy-saving opportunities for the library.

Leslie has received many apron samples that have not met her specifications.

Beth reported that John Powers has serious concerns about the health implications of the overuse of our library's restroom and possible effects on the septic system shared with the Howes House.

#### **New Business:**

Dan commented that the letter to the selectmen did not cover the point of disowning the original sketch for library renovation. Hermine clarified that the sketch did not represent a formal plan but, rather, a concept aligned with the idea that the library was to remain in this location. The square footage represents what could be added to the library in the existing location. Suzi noted that the library was asked by the space needs committee for a place hold within a ten-year time frame. The plan needs much

more specificity. Linda asked Dan to create a letter to the selectmen to clarify that the original plan/sketch does not represent the needs of the library today and that, with the Welles property, much more flexibility in renovation would be possible.

**Budget** – Beth distributed a copy of the budget copies that she developed and that were presented to Bruce Stone, and she explained the rationale of each line item on both budget drafts. Ginny moved that we approve the budget drafts contingent on the final selection of one at a later date. Elaine seconded. Approved unanimously.

Linda announced that, due to time constraints, no policy work would be done at this meeting.

**Correspondence:** none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Pace, Secretary