

**MINUTES**  
**West Tisbury Library Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2009**  
**at the West Tisbury Public Library**

**In Attendance**

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

**Director:** Beth Kramer

**Public:** None

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

**Minutes**

Ginny Jones moved that the minutes from the meeting of July 21, 2009 be approved as submitted. Hermine Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No Friends being present, there was no Friends Report.

**Librarian's Report**

Beth Kramer reported a slight decrease in patron visits (down 0.4%) for the month of July, but a 15.4% increase in circulation. Library programs were up 17.2%, with attendees up 7.4%. Total patron activity increased 12.4%.

Beth reported that she has met with the Town Accountant about year-end finances, but has nothing to report yet. She attended a recent Library Leadership conference offered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The conference covered tools to communicate more effectively with staff. She wrote a short-term action plan including development of closer relationships with other Island libraries, enhanced regional resource sharing and improved work focus (more strategic planning and less time on the circulation desk). Beth said she found a mentor, networked with MBLC leadership, and signed up for several regional committees. She noted that budget cuts are causing an industry-wide trend toward regionalization of town libraries, with library directors being replaced by "branch managers" of county-based library systems. Beth cited audiobooks and other downloadables as one example of regional resource sharing.

**Policy**

In old business, Dan Waters continued the ongoing policy discussion. Dan moved for the adoption of the Privacy Policy as written by Melissa Hackney. Ginny Jones seconded the motion, offering a minor change of wording. The motion passed unanimously.

Ginny then moved for the adoption of the Public Participation and Input Policy, and Hermine seconded the motion. Dan offered a substantially rewritten version, which was unanimously approved.

Moving on to the Public Relations Policy, Dan argued that the proposed policy was vague and unnecessary, that it consisted mostly of procedure and not policy, and that in any case the text

dealt with duties of the Board of Trustees, a topic more appropriate for Bylaws. Ginny moved that the text not be adopted, and Hermine seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously not to approve the Public Relations Policy.

Looking ahead to future discussions, Dan suggested that Melissa be asked to review the proposed CORI policy, and that the Volunteer Committee be asked to review the proposed Volunteer Policy.

### **Old Business**

In a continuation of other old business, it was noted that Melissa is researching library foundations and is working on the 501 (c) 3 filing, and that no further discussion of the Foundation is needed at present. The Facility Needs Committee has not yet met.

### **New Business**

Beth reported that Billy Haynes (of Haynes Plumbing and Caretaking) had sent a letter to Joyce Bowker, Director of Up-Island Council on Aging, suggesting that the Howes House well and pump are “subject to failure” and that it would be cheaper and more convenient to tap into the Library’s well than to drill a new one.

It appears that the Library Board of Trustees is not being consulted on this matter or asked to approve anything. However, it is also clear that changes are being proposed that may significantly affect the Library facility, the service it provides, and the safety and well-being of its patrons. Several Trustees expressed concern that heaping more demand on the Library’s sole water source could hasten the well’s failure, and that this was an especially ill-advised scheme considering that the Library is actively planning to expand its facilities in the foreseeable future. Beth said she would ask John Powers, the town’s Health Agent, to look into the matter further.

### **Other Business**

The Summer Taxpayers Meeting will be held on August 12th at 7 p.m. at the Howes House, and representatives from all town departments have been asked to attend. Beth and Dan will represent the Library.

There were no comments from the public (no public being present), and no correspondence to read. A motion to adjourn, duly seconded, was made at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Waters  
Clerk