



BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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www.bethellibrary.org

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 26, 2012—7:00 p.m.

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, Meeting Room B, Bethel CT

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Trisha Lewis, Chairman; Jane Bickford, Linda Curtis, Robin Kahn, Carol Lawlor [entered 7:08 p.m.], Richard Merritt, Tia Murphy, Mary O'Leary, Terri Rotella [entered 7:03 p.m.], Elisa Volpati [entered 7:06 p.m.], Directors.

Lynn Rosato, Library Director.

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Gary Passineau, Mary Spain, Directors.

VISITORS: Judy Andrews, Robert Andrews, Cynthia McCorkindale, Billy Michael, John Opinski, Kevin Opinski, and public at large.

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT: Re: the February 22 mailing about the proposed demolition of the old town hall building: Ms. McCorkindale expressed her concerns that the mailing [sent via email flier to the Library's list] was inappropriate advocacy and indicated a possible alliance with the First Selectman's office; Dr. Opinski also expressed disapproval of perceived advocacy by the Library Board; Mr. Michael voiced concern about a "slippery slope" in which Town boards advocate as PACs, and noted that low turnout at the March 21 public hearing was proof that parking at the Library was not important to people in town; other speakers questioned the need for additional parking and reiterated concern about the appropriateness of the February 22 mailing. Chairman Lewis thanked members of the public for their input.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012, MEETING MINUTES: Robin Kahn moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Mary O'Leary. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Bickford distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Richard Merritt moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion seconded by Linda Curtis Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Library Director Rosato distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Discussion of the Library's presence on social media – Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Linda Curtis reported that the next meeting of the FOL will be April 24, and reminded Board members to renew their memberships.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: Robin Kahn reported that the Committee has met and will present recommended changes to the Bylaws for a vote at the next Board meeting. Ms. Kahn reviewed the proposed changes.

Scholarship Committee: In the absence of Committee Chair Mary Spain, Library Director Rosato reported that information about the Library Board scholarship has been widely distributed. Scholarship applications are due to the Library by April 25. The Committee will meet on April 30 to begin the review process.

Development Committee: Tia Murphy reported that the Committee met recently and discussed its focus for 2012. In addition to the Wine Tasting event, suggested events include: a series of small ribbon-cutting ceremonies as each section of the renovated Library is completed; a town-wide contest for a new Library logo and slogan; other informational/promotional opportunities to coincide with town celebrations. Discussion.

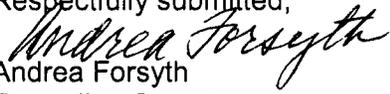
Building Project Update: Library Director Rosato distributed a written report prior to the meeting. She noted that the newly-reconstituted State Historic Preservation Office now requires that an archaeological study be performed prior to the start of construction around the Seeyle House. Discussion.

Public Hearing--Old Town Hall: The Public Hearing was held March 21 with approximately 75-100 people in attendance. The Board of Selectmen will now meet to vote on demolition of the building. Discussion. Planning & Zoning requires sixteen spaces of additional parking per its regulations. Continued discussion.

Budget FY 2012-2013: The Public Hearing is scheduled for April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel High School. Discussion. Members of the Library Board, the Friends of the Library, library patrons and supporters need to attend and speak to the importance of the Library in the Bethel community. Mary O'Leary made a motion that the Chairman of the Library Board of Directors write a letter to the Board of Finance requesting that \$3000 be restored to the Library's book budget. Motion seconded by Terri Rotella. Motion passed unanimously. Continued discussion.

Jane Bickford moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Terri Rotella. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrea Forsyth
Recording Secretary

Reports referred to in the minutes are on file at the Bethel Public Library.