



BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801

203-794-8756 Fax 203-794-8761

www.bethellibrary.org

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 23, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Trisha Lewis, Chairman, Robin Kahn, Carol Lawlor, Richard Merritt, Tia Murphy, Mary O’Leary, Terri Rotella, Elisa Volpati, Mary Spain, Jane Bickford (by phone).

Lynn Rosato, Library Director

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Gary Passineau, Linda Curtis

VISITORS: Cynthia McCorkindale, Kevin Opinski, Billy Michael and other members of the public.

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT: Cynthia McCorkindale clarified and restated her position regarding the Library’s February 22nd mailing about the proposed demolition of the old town hall building. Kevin Opinski raised a question about the letter he received from Chairman Lewis after the last Board meeting. Billy Michael requested that the Board reject the Executive Committee’s recommendations regarding vacation time and a salary increase. Chairman Lewis thanked the members of the public for their input.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Lewis stated that she had received a letter dated March 27, 2012 from Billy Michael on behalf of the Bethel Action Committee. A copy of the letter will be on file in the office of the Town Clerk with the minutes of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 26, 2012 MEETING MINUTES: Robin Kahn moved to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2012 meeting as presented. Carol Lawlor seconded the motion. Motion passed, with Mary Spain abstaining.

RECEIVED

2012 APR 25 P 12: 07

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Bickford distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Terri Rotella moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Mary Spain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Library Director Rosato reported that she met with the Town's Comptroller and a senior risk control agent to do an inspection of the library to determine if any safety issues needed to be addressed. As a result of the inspection, boxes with cabling were removed from the tech closet on the first floor and fluorescent light tubes that had been stored by the Public Works Department in the electrical room were relocated.
- Kevin Opinski filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) claiming the existence of certain safety hazards. OSHA representative Jeff Ritter inspected the library and found no violations. Mr. Ritter will recommend that the case be closed.
- Kevin Opinski filed a complaint with Bethel Fire Marshal Tom Galliford claiming the existence of hazardous conditions in the library. Mr. Galliford inspected the library and found no hazardous conditions.
- Ms. Rosato reminded the Board of the Mathematics fundraising event that will be held on May 6, 2012. She asked that volunteers arrive between 12:30 and 12:45 on the day of the event.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Chairman Lewis presented the report in Linda Curtis' absence. She reminded the Board of the Friend's general meeting which will be taking place on April 24, 2012.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: Robin Kahn gave a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Tia Murphy moved that the amendments to the Bylaws be approved as presented. Richard Merritt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Scholarship Committee: Mary Spain reported that the Committee finalized its application and evaluation forms and that she had delivered copies of the application forms to Bethel High School, Wooster School, Immaculate and Abbot Tech. Applications are due back by April 25, 2012 and the Committee will meet on April 30, 2012 to make its selection.

Development Committee: Tia Murphy reported that Terri Rotella has agreed to chair the wine tasting fund raiser. A date for the wine tasting has not yet been determined.

Building Project Update: Library Director Rosato reported that the Building Committee and the architect are discussing alternate plans for the air conditioning in the Seeley House which would not require excavation. If excavation is necessary the State Historic Preservation Office will require that the library engage an archeologist to perform an archeological study which could take four to six weeks to complete and could cost up to \$5,000.00.

Public Hearing - Old Town Hall: Library Director Lynn Rosato reported that there is no news with regard to the demolition of the old town hall building. The matter remains in the hands of the Board of Selectmen.

Budget FY 2012-2013: Chairman Lewis urged Board members to attend the Town Meeting on the budget which will be held on May 7, 2012 at 7:30 at the High School to speak with regard to the restoration of \$3,000.00 to the books and materials line item in the Library's budget.

Executive Committee: Chairman Lewis moved to table future discussion and decisions on personnel salaries and benefits until we know what the Library's budget is. Robin Kahn seconded the motion. After discussion the motion failed.

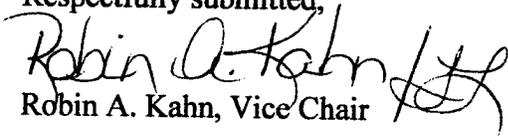
A discussion ensued regarding the Executive Committee's meeting of March 29, 2012 and the recommendations that were voted on at that meeting. Board members expressed their concerns about the process that was followed by the Executive Committee, about the timing of the meeting and about the public perception of the decisions made at that meeting. Board members also expressed their displeasure about not having been informed of the outcome of the Executive Board's meeting prior to their speaking in favor of the restoration to the book and materials line item of the Library's budget at the budget public hearing. Chairman Lewis informed the Board that the meeting was called in response to a letter that was signed by Library Director Rosato and all of the librarians in which they requested raises or compensating vacation benefits. Ms. Rosato stated that the librarians are demoralized by fact that they have not received raises in over three and one half years while most other Town employees have received raises during this time. This is despite the increase in the amount of work that has been expected of library staff because of the extended building project.

Terri Rotella moved to table item X on the agenda to a later date. Richard Merritt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board members decided to hold a special meeting on May 3, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Library in order to prepare for the Library's presentation at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Robin Kahn moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Rotella seconded the motion, The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robin A. Kahn, Vice Chair



March 27, 2012

Ms. Trisha Lewis, Chair
Board of Directors
Bethel Public Library
189 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801

Dear Tricia,

On behalf of the Bethel Action Committee, I would like to thank you for allotting such a generous amount of time to the public input portion of your March 26th Board Meeting.

To summarize our concerns:

- 1) That the Library, a publicly-funded Agency, used public resources to promote a position on an taxpayer issue where the outcome is pending a resolution by Town Meeting, referendum or decision by an elected Board when they sent out the email entitled "Let Your Voice Be Heard" and inserted flyers supporting the demolition of the Old Town Hall into outgoing library books. Further, these memoranda were sent to a specific Library constituency and not to the taxpayers-at-large.
- 2) That the lack of off-site employee parking is preventing the Library patrons from finding convenient parking spaces in the area between the Old Town Hall and Seeley House. Our concern is that off-site employee parking as an alternative to razing the Old Town Hall building has not been explored.

I hope that you found our input valuable, as we are part of the Public that the Library seeks to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billy Michael
Chairmand

cc: Matthew Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Pat Rist, Planning & Zoning

Billy Michael, Chairman
William C. Michael, Treasurer
27½ Fleetwood Avenue © Bethel CT © 06801
www.bethelactioncommittee.org

Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2012 12:06:20 -0400
Subject: Library complaint 2nd floor
From: Thomas Galliford <gallifordt@bethel-ct.gov>
X-ASG-Orig-Subj: Library complaint 2nd floor
To: administration@bethellibrary.org, Lynn Rosato <lrosato@bethellibrary.org>
Cc: MARTIN LAWLOR <martin.j.lawlor@snet.net>

Based on the written complaint that was received in my office on 4/18/2012 from Kevin Opinsky, I inspected the library on 4/23/2012. (I was in a seminar on the 18th and out of town from the 19th-22nd)

The door to the 2nd floor unfinished space was locked and a staff member unlocked and opened the door for me.

I observed an area approximately 10 feet by 4 feet that contained old glass oil lamps of varying sizes and shapes. NONE of the lamps contained any oil and were all empty.

Both exits are accessible and working. Exit signs and emergency lights and fire sprinklers are on and working. There were no hazardous conditions found at the time of my inspection.

It is acceptable to occasionally allow employees to enter the space and accompany the public or contractors/designers for the purposes of the planning for future construction and use of the space.

--

Thomas E. Galliford (*my new email address is gallifordt@bethel-ct.gov*)
Fire Marshal
Emergency Management Director
Town of Bethel, CT
1 School St Bethel CT 06801
203-794-8518 FM office
203-778-7518 FM fax
203-794-8522 EOC

Lynn Rosato
Library Director
Bethel Public Library
189 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801

203-794-8756 ext 6