

Abington Public Library
Board of Trustees
February 9, 2010

Chairman Henry DiCarlo called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Present were Betty Henderson, Jonathan Harris, Christina McMahon, Will Adamczyk, Gail Bergin, and Acting Director Deborah Grimmett.

Motion: To accept the minutes of January 11, 2010 as amended was made by Betty, seconded by Gail, and accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Report: Henry reported that there was a very good turnout for the Legislative breakfast on February 5th. This will be the last breakfast hosted by SEMLSS. The Citizens Task Force was provided with information they requested. The Norwell Public Library Board of Trustees voted to maintain their own building and the Norwell Board of Selectmen voted not to close their library and outsource library services.

Acting Director's Report: The part-time salary line will run out before the end of the fiscal year. Salaries are ok due to the full-time staff taking more furlough days. Gas and electric expenses are on schedule because the library is open fewer hours. Soon the book budget will be taken from state aid. We have expended \$6400 from state aid so far.

Deborah reminded the board that the library uses regionalization through the OCLN network and buying books through a consortium. Any requests to Deborah to research more regionalization should be made through the Board of Library Trustees and should be part of a long-term strategic plan.

The staff members presented the board with a memo regarding outside fund-raising. They are very concerned about the budget situation and suggested several ideas. Deborah will explore some possibilities such as raffles, "adopt a book" week, and Target grants which will be available in March. The trustees discussed these and agreed to allow a donation jar at the circulation desk for books and materials.

The Friends will pay for animal adoptions and some supplies for the summer reading program. Will mentioned that trivia night for adults is a popular fund raiser in Quincy. After discussion on various ways to supplement the budget, the board decided to add "Fund Raising" to future agendas.

The board also discussed possible energy-saving opportunities, such as wind or solar panels and will look into any state energy programs. One drawback to any of these programs appears to be a 45-50% cost up front.

Gail attended the Selectmen's meeting and reported to the rest of the trustees.

Emily's computer program received rave reviews and will be repeated at a later date.

The library is busier than it was in January, 2009. In spite of being open fewer hours, the average circulation/hour, the average number of people served/hour and internet use were up substantially from a year ago. The Copeland Meeting Room is now closed Monday nights but remains very busy—used by many groups back to back.

Deborah has spoken with George Whiting about going to Probate Court to update some of the trust fund restrictions. The Rotary Club asked for a wish list, especially

adding museum passes. Possibilities include the Institute of Contemporary Art and Battleship Cove.

Upcoming programming includes telescopes (in the summer), Thimbles and Friends quilt demonstration day the first Saturday in March, and the summer reading program. The Bumpus Fund will supply re-usable grocery bags for participants. Regular story hours remain full.

Building Issues: The book drop will be repaired when the weather warms up. The roof was inspected and is in good shape except for some cracked shingles which will be repaired in the spring. We have some problems with the emergency light ballasts for the up-lights. Andy MacKenzie suggested we put in standard emergency lighting to replace these because it is much cheaper (\$100-150 as opposed to \$180 per ballast). Deborah will check with the Building Inspector and Fire Chief to see about this possibility as more ballasts are starting to go.

FY'11 Budget: Level-funded will eliminate the reference librarian, and reduce staff hours for one part-time assistant to 3.5 hours/week. The library would be open 40 hours/week and would need to request a waiver from the BLC. A level-service budget adds furlough time and allows for step raises (contractual obligations) only. Deborah explained certification—the impact on staff hours lost is directly related to the number of hours open. The state aid also depends on the materials' budget.

Motion: Christina made the motion to reluctantly endorse the FY'11 level services budget submitted by the acting director. Betty seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Hull's library has been decertified. Abington will not continue services to Hull, following its policy of not supporting decertified libraries.

Emily is going forward with the LSTA grant for youth services which will be submitted in March.

The Young Adult collection development policy has been revised.

Motion: To accept the revised YA collection development policy was made by Jon, seconded by Will and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held March 8, 2010.

At 9:10 pm Will moved to adjourn the meeting. Jon seconded it, and it passed unanimously.