

Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of March 27, 2007

Members present: Greg Bedula, Paul Courchaine, Greg Curtin, Tracy Gionfriddo, Susan Grady, Howard Greenblatt, Brad Milvae, Pauline Moon, Karen Mortensen

Staff present: Laurel Goodgion, director

Also present: Christine Fortunato, Council Liaison; Lucille Domick, President of the Friends of the Library; Mike Turner, town engineer; Joe Coombs, chairman of the Building Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:05.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

RENOVATION

Joe Coombs, Building Committee Chairman, reported that Phase 1 work is complete except for a punch list of things to be finished. After the building inspector and the fire marshal have approved the work, a partial Certificate of Occupancy will be issued for the main floor of the Library. The mezzanine will be part of Phase 2.

Phase 2 needs to be schemed out. The Town Council will make the award of the contract. The Council is waiting for one more piece of information from one contractor.

A lot of coordination will be needed. There will be inconvenience for a while. It is difficult to renovate an active building that is also the seat of the government and which must remain open. A goal is a minimum amount of disruption.

The parking lot will be closed off for a staging area.

There is a plan for the beautification of the corner of the building facing the Silas Deane. This work will be done by a different contractor.

In answer to a question by Greg Curtin as to how the Library staff is to field questions from the public, Joe Coombs said that the basic answer is that the Town hasn't signed on a contractor yet and that the schemed project will be for fifteen months. Fifteen months is the outside date. It depends on how people are maneuvered in the building. The quicker the work is done, the sooner the parking lot can be put in. The Library roof will be replaced. A new code mandates dual drains, a high and a low. This will require an entire additional set of piping. Materials for the outside of the building are long-lead items, which means getting in line at the manufacturer. This may take four or five months. Then the materials will have to be brought in and staged. Some Phase 2 work is already underway and almost done. For example, the boilers are in.

In answer to Paul Courchaine's question about swing space, Joe Coombs said that the main consideration is what is best for the project. Things will be done for the good of the construction as opposed to personnel.

Joe went on to explain that the skylight requires the demolition of the roof above it. There will be a new ceiling. The whole building will be sprinkled.

In answer to Laurel Goodgion's question about how long it will take to demolish the stairs, etc., Joe responded that there can be no pedestrian traffic straying into the areas being worked on. There is a lean budget. Therefore there is no

money for temporary partitions. Phase 2 work done under Phase 1 went under change orders. He reiterated the difficulty of renovating an active building.

Mike Turner added that a lot will depend on what the contractor plans to do.

Joe brought up the problem of discovery of previous work performed under codes that were more lax than those of today. Bringing everything up to today's stricter codes all add additional time of construction.

Tracy Gionfriddo asked questions and expressed concern about whether or not the length of the time of the project will affect the terms of the \$400,000 grant the Library received from the State Library. Christine Fortunato emphasized the need to be in conformance with the terms of the grant. Legal questions need to be apprised right away.

Joe stated that the funds for payment of the project are not always from grant money. He said that he needs to be made aware if the Library is looking for other grant money.

Joe concluded his remarks by saying that he welcomes questions. They should be consolidated and given to him or Mike Turner.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

President Lucille Domick announced that there will be a book sale in the middle of June. Lucille Plouffe will check with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to see if the Friends can use the Town Hall for their sale. StoreIt has extended another six months of free storage for the Friends' books. The Friends will call upon the Library Board to help move books for the book sale. Lucille said that she had sent papers to incorporate the Friends to the Secretary of State. She further reported that Christine Fortunato had come to all the Friends' meetings, guiding the Friends in the incorporation process and writing their bylaws.

Karen Rider is working on some other programs for the Friends. Tracy McDougal is working on fundraising.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Christine Fortunato reported that Assistant Superintendent Judy Golden had sent a letter to parents about using the Library for research. Unfortunately not all the services of the Library are available. Not only is the lack of computers a problem, but children's education is being affected. There is a question as to how to run the summer reading program. Laurel Goodgion thanked Christine for her concern about Library service to children. Christine suggested issuing press releases and updates on the Library.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The [minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2007](#), were approved as distributed.

QUESTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR

There were no questions for the Director.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Chairman Curtin expressed his pleasure with the Manager's budget in the last couple of years. Laurel Goodgion expanded on various portions of the budget for next year.

She distributed a booklet entailing all the work accomplished in the temporary library to date.

At 8:38 Polly Moon moved to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations and personnel matters. Howard

Greenblatt seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:45 Laurel Goodgion left the executive session.

At 9:35 Polly moved to come out of executive session. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

At 9:35 Tracy Gionfriddo left.

At 9:36 Laurel Goodgion returned.

There will be a special Library Board meeting at 5:30 on April 12 at the Nature Center prior to presenting the Library budget to the Town Council.

The Town Budget Hearing will be held at 7:00 on April 16 at the high school.

At 9:48 Greg Bedula moved to adjourn. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady
Secretary