

## **Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of August 28, 2007**

**Members present:** Greg Bedula, Paul Courchaine, Greg Curtin, Susan Grady, Howard Greenblatt, Clare Meade, Brad Milvae, Pauline Moon

**Members excused:** Tracy Gionfriddo

**Staff present:** Laurel Goodgion, director; Liz Kirkpatrick, asst. director

**Others present:** Luci Domick, President, Friends of the Wethersfield Library; Christine Fortunato, Town Council Liaison; Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Greg Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:02. He took the meeting agenda items out of order.

At 7:03 Susan Grady moved to go into executive session to discuss union issues. Howard Greenblatt seconded. The motion carried.

Greg Bedula arrived at 7:04.

Clare Meade arrived at 7:09.

At 7:24 Howard Greenblatt moved to come out of executive session. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion passed.

At 7:25 Luci Domick arrived.

At 7:25 Town Manager Bonnie Therrien left.

### **RENOVATION**

Things are moving along. The site supervisor is changing. The job meeting atmosphere with Kronenburger is very cooperative. The old stairway has been demolished. The old ductwork is out; the new ductwork is in. There will be a new ceiling in the Boardroom. The existing lights will remain. The Library side of the roof will be completed this week. New skylights will not be going in for a while. Joe Coombs and Mike Turner recommended long-life bulbs for the reading room. This is a good idea because the Library had to shut down to change the old lights. Scaffolding was needed to change them, and the job was time-consuming.

Liz Kirkpatrick presented a renovation fact sheet written by Laurel Goodgion and Bonnie Therrien for Library and Town Hall employees to answer questions from the public about the renovation. The information will be updated in October.

Greg Curtin, Paul Courchaine, and Laurel Goodgion attended the Building Committee meeting last night. The Board is trying to get a handle on the budget. It is a declining budget by which bills get paid off the top. Building Committee member Tim Tuell wants the amount of what has been spent and where it came from listed in the budget.

The Board is concerned about the \$100,000 charged to the Library and why the Library is being charged for storage fees. Storage was never proposed as an allowance. It should have been part of a contingency fund. The Library must have enough money for shelving and furniture. In order to plan ahead, the Board needs clarification on where the Library stands as the renovation project goes forward.

Representatives from the State Library toured the Library and wrote to the Town Manager stating that they have accepted the plan for the Town Hall to use the Library as swing space and that this will not affect the State Library

Construction Grant.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

President Luci Domick announced that the annual Friends' meeting will be held at the Nature Center on Oct. 10. Renowned author Steven Goddard will be the guest speaker. He will focus on Alfred Pope. There will also be questions and answers about the relationship of Friends to Library boards. Mr. Goddard will be very helpful in answering questions about fundraising. He helped raise \$100,000 for the Hartford Public Library.

Luci has been in touch with the Wethersfield Historical Society. They will put out flyers with Friends' information. They need more lead time for items to get into their newsletter.

The Friends will hold book sales at the Cornfest and the Craft Fair. They need people to move books. Suggestions were made to use Boy Scouts, C.C.D. students, and others who might want to do community service. Paul Courchaine asked if any books would be sold at the Antique Show in November as they were last year. Luci said most of them were sold last year. Clare Meade suggested selling books on landscaping and home décor at the Keane Foundation House Tour in October.

The Friends are making a minor change to their bylaws. They are also working on their budget. They have moved their monies to a higher interest account.

Their membership form is being re-designed and, similar to the form of the historical society, there will be opportunities for people to become patrons as well as individual members.

Laurel complimented the Friends on their new organizational set-up.

## **COUNCIL LIAISON**

Christine Fortunato had no new Town Council information to report.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The [minutes of July 24, 2007](#), were approved as amended.

## **QUESTIONS FOR THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Laurel distributed the Cornfest sign-up sheet.

There were no questions on the Action Fund and Operating Budget.

Laurel and Pam Kelly are working with members of the Historical Society on a self- guided walking tour of Old Wethersfield. Laurel wants the Library to have copies of the tour available for distribution to patrons of the Library.

Laurel announced the upcoming Association of CT Library Boards conference. There is an important part on patron privacy.

Laurel gave Polly Moon and Greg Bedula of the Insurance Committee information on insurance programs for Friends. She also thanked Polly, Greg Curtin, and Paul Courchaine for attending renovation meetings.

At 8:15 Howard Greenblatt moved to adjourn. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady

## Secretary