

1. Call to Order

The Chester Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014, at the Chester Public Library, 21 West Main Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Terry Schreiber, Sandy Senior-Dauer, Deedee Prisloe, Peggy Carter-Ward, Denny Tovey and Bob Gorman. Linda Fox, Library Director, was also present. Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Secretary's Report

**Motion made and seconded to approve January 11, 2014 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

**Motion made and seconded to approve January 13, 2014 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

3. Treasurer's Report

**Treasurer Prisloe distributed reports for the last two months noting there was not much activity recently. Motion made and seconded to approve Treasurer's Reports. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

4. Old Business

(b) Poetry Evening

Chairman Schreiber noted things are moving along. The Meeting House is reserved for April 7th. There are 3 poets lined up and she is still waiting to hear from others. Sandy Senior-Dauer will be the host of the event.

(d) Report from The Friends

Chairman Schreiber noted Cary Hull was not present but submitted a report. It was noted the book sale was very successful and brought in about \$1000. She is also giving books away free to people who collect them for a worthy cause.

(c) Approval of Budget

(a) Continued Discussion – Future of Library

Linda Fox explained two areas that were different from last year's budget. \$2500 was added as furnishings to completely outfit the office (this was not a formal quote). Discussion followed. Sandy Senior-Dauer noted the Library will be at this location for at least the foreseeable future so it should be in the budget. The office area was reviewed in detail both with and without the new furnishings.

Linda Fox reviewed additional staff hours – 13 hours for a total of \$10,140 annually. She then reviewed programming and current staffing. The new sick day mandate

was reviewed as well as collections, programming services and staff. Discussion ensued as to what to include in the budget under library expansion. Bob Gorman suggested asking the First Selectman for advice as to what to ask for.

The future of the library was discussed as part of the budget preparation.

Chairman Schreiber noted everyone was brought up to speed on the results of the Library Board meeting with the Board of Selectmen. A couple of Selectmen were not in favor of the underground expansion.

Peggy Carter-Ward noted it is this Board's charge to do what is best for the Town and the Board investigated what could be done at the current location. It was always that the majority of people wanted the Library to be here. Now the momentum is maybe that is no longer the best solution. What is being heard now is that perhaps North Quarter Park is a better solution. The Library Board should do what is best for the Town. There is a lot of resistance to the existing location.

Deedee Prisløe noted there are a lot of road blocks to this location. She felt the current location had a lot of integrity, but that was more of a sentimental attachment. She agreed the Library Board must do what's best for the Town.

It was also agreed there was a lot of resistance lately from the Church and it would be easier not to have to deal with that.

It was noted the Library Board was previously told NQP was not buildable by several former town officials and that was not an option because of wetlands and the dumping of the old high school. However, that doesn't seem to be the current opinion. There was discussion regarding NQP and what possibly could be done there. Bob Gorman noted the ballfield and the playground need to remain, not necessarily in the same location.

Denny Tovey noted the First Selectman Meehan indicated the first step is to hire a firm to identify the wetlands and then do a possible concept plan. The Library would probably be the first thing done at NQP. Tovey also noted he thought the Board should do what's right for the Town although he felt NQP would be more expensive than building at the current location. The unknown at NQP is the dumping ground and to remediate soil can be very expensive.

Bob Gorman noted he has been opposed to the current location. He envisioned a nice Town Center and Playground. He felt NQP would be a nice area connected to the center of Town and felt that location would gather more support.

There was discussion regarding Grant money and whether or not it would still be available next year. The deadline for this year is September 1st. Discussion

followed about hiring someone to a plan, etc. and the time line.

Chairman Schreiber noted it would be easier to build at NQP. It is the same distance from NQP and here to the center. However, she was concerned about what the building would look like as its the entrance to the Town at NQP. The existing location is a beautiful building.

There was discussion as to how much square footage the Library really needs.

Linda Fox noted she would like to see improved library services and make it so that everyone could get in to take advantage of those services. She was worried about losing the Library Grant money. More discussion regarding the Grant and the deadline. Denny Tovey noted there are other Grants out there that might be available.

There was discussion as to whether or not something might be found at NQP to make it unbuildable.

It was noted a definite location has to be decided in order to apply for the Library Grant. One can't apply for one location and then use that Grant in another location.

Chairman Schreiber asked whether the Board should put the lower level expansion on the back burner and pursue NQP. Further discussion ensued regarding future expansion, budget and applying for the Grant. It was again noted there was the concern about getting everything done in time to apply for the Grant before the deadline. Denny Tovey noted he would be opposed to an RFP because he doesn't know the scope of the work. He suggested doing an RFQ.

There was discussion about the Library and what's included in the Plan of Conservation and Development about the Library.

Chairman Schreiber reiterated a decision needs to be made as to what to put in the budget for the Library expansion. She further noted permission has been given by the Church to do the test borings at the current location.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding current location vs NQP. Sandy Senior-Dauer asked if it was possible to pursue both locations at the same time to see which one is feasible.

Bob Gorman suggested pursuing NQP and deferring the borings at the current location for at least awhile.

Denny Tovey noted the new Library should be accessible, have work space for the Library Director, programming space and do what the Town wants. There is a

different location now to pursue that was not available when this discussion first started.

Bob Gorman suggested asking for money to look at NQP to see whether its feasible or whether it should be eliminated and defer the borings at the current location. It was agreed Mr. Gorman would spearhead this project and be the liaison with the First Selectman.

Chairman Schreiber noted the borings at the Church will be put on hold. Townspeople should be told that another location has opened up that they will explore.

It was agreed to put \$20,000 into this year's budget and \$20,000 into next year's budget.

**Motion made and seconded to pay the annual fee of \$100.00 to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

**Motion made and seconded to ask the Boards of Finance and Selectmen for \$20,000 from Contingency Fund for this year to investigate feasibility of NQP. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Carter-Ward, second by Senior-Dauer, to add \$20,000 to next year's budget for schematic design for NQP contingent upon acceptability of the NQP site. Voting in favor – Senior-Dauer, Prisloe, Carter-Ward, Tovey, Gorman, Schreiber. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

5. New Business

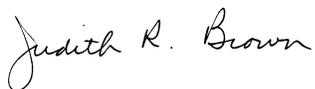
6. Librarian's Report

There was no discussion regarding these two items.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary