

**Chester Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting, September 15, 2014  
Page 1 of 4**

**1. Call to Order**

The Chester Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Monday, September 15, 2014, at the Chester Public Library, 21 West Main Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Terry Schreiber, Sandy Senior-Dauer, Deedee Prisloe, Denny Tovey and Bob Gorman. Linda Fox (Library Director) and Cary Hull (The Friend's) were also present. Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

**2. Secretary's Report**

**Motion by Prisloe, second by Tovey, to approve August 11, 2014 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.**

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Prisloe distributed the Monthly Report for September 15, 2014. She reviewed balances and expenditures.

**Motion by Senior-Dauer, second by Tovey, to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.**

**4. Update on Library Building**

Denny Tovey noted there is a Library Building Committee meeting on Wednesday. He indicated the Library Grant Application had been submitted. There is \$4.5 million available. Four communities have submitted applications for a total of \$3.6 million. Chester requested \$1 million. Linda Fox noted the \$4.5 million is for non-distressed communities. Based on the assumption Chester will receive the Grant, there should be discussion as to how to proceed. Notification of whether or not Chester receives the Grant will probably be just before Thanksgiving. It's important to be in a position to move forward at that time.

Should there be a public informational meeting in December? We should work with the architect on elevations in the meantime and approach the town for more funds to get that done.

Fund raising should be discussed. Chairman Schreiber noted she was surprised at the bottom line price. Tovey noted it was \$6 million. Tovey asked what a reasonable fund raising goal would be.

The question was asked if the Town would still get the Grant if the project was scaled back.

There was much discussion regarding building size and square

**Chester Library Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting, September 15, 2014**  
**Page 2 of 4**

footage cost. Currently the building size is about 8200 square feet. It was noted the actual cost of the building portion of the project is \$3.0 million with site work at \$600,000.

Town bonding was discussed. It was noted there is currently an annual bond payment in the amount of \$200,000 which ends at the end of the year.

There was discussion as to whether or not the 2<sup>nd</sup> story adds significantly to the project. Tovey noted the site work costs don't change regardless. He further noted the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor allows for a presence on Main Street which is what the North Quarter Park Committee requested. Mr. Tovey explained this was a compromise. It gives street presence and Library staff a way to monitor the second floor. It was a good plan.

There was discussion about having some "pretty pictures" for the public informational meeting. The cost of that would be about \$15,000.

Chairman Schreiber felt community meetings were important as this is already being talked about in Town. Maybe the next step is to go back to the Board of Finance to request funds to do the pictures.

Further discussion ensued regarding size of the building, cost of the project, next steps, do we go back to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen for more money to do pictures for community meetings, etc. Linda Fox asked if there were ways to bring the unassigned space down.

Bob Gorman noted the Library should be reasonable size and something the Town's people will vote for. He felt this was too big, too expensive and would not pass a town vote.

Sandy Senior-Dauer noted she didn't think the Town would support a \$6 million project. Gorman noted he would endorse something about \$500 per square foot and bringing the project down to about \$4 million. That would be about 5500 square feet.

There was discussion regarding what the Town of Lyme has done for a new Library. Bob Gorman suggested everyone take a look at Lyme's new Library. Denny Tovey suggested maybe someone from Lyme could come to a meeting and explain what they did. We should also

**Chester Library Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting, September 15, 2014**  
**Page 3 of 4**

find out from First Selectman Meehan if the architect has completed his contract.

Deedee Prisloe asked "how do we know the Town won't support this?" Tovey agreed with her. How do we know the Town doesn't want this and will vote it down?

Chairman Schreiber noted everyone needs to know the Library Board supports this. Tovey asked if the Board endorses all the space in this plan? Gorman noted it is the non-usable space that is the problem. Schreiber noted some of it is ADA stuff and can't be reduced.

Linda Fox noted this was a concept in order to apply for the Grant. It still could be refined and polished. We have to take what we have and make it doable.

It was agreed the Library Board supports the concept but will explore other options.

**5. Review Grant, Fund Raising**

It was noted the Grant Application has been submitted. Everyone applauded Linda for her work on the Grant application. Linda extended her thanks to everyone who helped out with the application.

Fund raising was discussed. A couple of suggestions were made. Should we hire a professional fund raiser? Should a Fund Raising Committee be formed comprised of Library Board of Trustees members, Building Committee members and The Friend's?

Cary Hull will report back at the next meeting with some thoughts on fund raising.

**6. Librarian's Report**

Linda Fox distributed and reviewed the Monthly Statistical Reports for July and August 2014. She noted the summer was successful thanks in large part to activities of The Friends. She reviewed the Children's and Adults Reading Programs.

Linda extended a huge thanks to Cary Hull and The Friend's in terms of things they have done for the Library.

Linda reviewed Fall Programs - Book Discussions on October 8<sup>th</sup> and

**Chester Library Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting, September 15, 2014**  
**Page 4 of 4**

15<sup>th</sup>, and Dear Life by Alice Munro on October 21<sup>st</sup>. She also noted she spoke to Matt Sanders about doing a Game Night at the Library.

It was noted Linda will be away September 26 thru October 6.

7. The Friends Report

Cary Hull reported on the following -  
They have been at the Sunday Market selling tickets.

The Fair Book Sale brought in \$743.00.

Sue Zirlen has put together the "Human Library" which is on the website. Many people are very interested and feedback has been extremely positive. Linda Fox is getting calls from other libraries inquiring about the program.

Sue Zirlen is also doing a PopUp Workshop - Zentangles on Thursday, October 30, 2014, 6 - 8 PM. The program is free. Just need to sign up.

Cary noted they are trying to get the word out that they are open to suggestions for additional programs. The Library is for everyone and the more we let people know that, the more engaged people become.

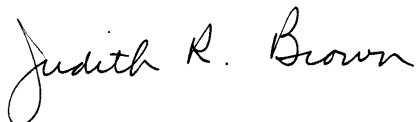
Linda Fox noted Cary Hull's monthly newsletters are absolutely wonderful.

8. Any Other Business - none.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary